THE NEW
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TRUMP BLESSES TIKTOK'S DEAL WITH ORACLE AND WALMART

The US President has approved a deal under which TikTok will partner with Oracle and Walmart and form a US company

ORACLE TO STORE DATA OF AMERICAN USERS

Oracle and Walmart will acquire a cumulative 20% stake in the new company for an expected $12.5 billion. Oracle will store the data of TikTok's US users and will have the right to inspect the app's source code any time. The new company will donate $5 billion to a public fund, satisfying Donald Trump's demand that the federal government get a 'cut' from the deal

JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP'S WECHAT BAN

- A US federal judge on Saturday blocked Trump's ban on Chinese messaging app WeChat, hours before it was due to take effect
- The judge said the government's ban will affect WeChat users' First Amendment right to free speech, since an effective ban on the app removes their platform for communication

25,000

JOBS WILL BE CREATED BY THE NEW TIKTOK COMPANY, SAYS TRUMP

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Ruckus in House; Chair ignores division demand since all members were not in their seats; Oppn says govt did not have the numbers

Shocker as RS rams two farm bills by voice vote

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TWO of the three contentious farm bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote on Sunday amid pandemonium from the Opposition parties.

The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill will now go to the President for his assent before they are notified as laws.

The third bill, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, will be moved separately.

Dramatic scenes unfolded as Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh rushed through the clauses of the two bills with Opposition MPs standing in the well of the House sloganeering, tearing copies of the bills, damaging the microphone at the podium and some climbing on to tables.

Opposition MPs also sat in protest inside the House after it was adjourned for the day, alleging that the government violated many rules to get the bills passed because it did not have the numbers.

The Centre condemned the ruckus in Parliament. "The kind of attack launched on Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who is an erudite and reputed person, is highly condemnable," Union Minister Rajnath Singh said in a press conference. "There are attempts to emotionally misguide the farmers on the agriculture bills passed by Parliament," he added.

Terming it a 'watershed moment' in the history of Indian agriculture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the bills will ensure a complete transformation of the farm sector.

Meanwhile, several BJP MPs demanded action against the unruly opposition lawmakers, following which Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu held a meeting with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. Sources said the Centre is also mulling a resolution against the Opposition MPs.

The pandemonium started after the Deputy Chairman extended the duration of the House beyond 1 pm and the Opposition alleged there was no consensus for this. Following this, MPs from the TMC, Congress, DMK, AAP and others rushed to the well of the House.

TMC parliamentary party leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien flashed the rule book at the chair. While some reports said he tore it, O'Brien later denied having done so. Another member tried to pull the microphones from the podium, while marshals thwarted it.

Many other MPs, including DMK's Tiruchi Siva, were seen tearing copies of the bill, while Congress MP Rajiv Satav and AAP MP Sanjay Singh climbed a table in front of the chair and shouted slogans.

The noisy scenes led to adjournment of the House for 15 minutes. As the House reassembled, the Opposition resumed their protest. But the Deputy Chairman continued with the bills and they were passed by voice vote in 20 minutes. The main point raised by Opposition MPs was the lack of provision for ensuring minimum support price to farmers. **P7**

NO-TRUST MOTION AGAINST DY CHAIR

Complaining they were not allowed to seek voting on two farm bills, 12 Opposition parties moved a no-trust motion against Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien displays the rule book in front of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh on Sunday | PTI

QUESTION MARK OVER VOICE VOTE

The Congress, CPM and DMK moved resolutions to send the bills to a select committee and demanded division when their resolutions were taken up. However, the Deputy Chairman said division can only be taken up if the members go back to their seats. Voice vote was taken as Opposition members continued to remain in the well of the House

A WATERSHED MOMENT, SAYS MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the passage of the farm bills, calling it a 'watershed moment' in the history of Indian agriculture. He said the bills have the potential to revolutionise the farm sector. The PM asserted the bills will help double the income of farmers

Deve Gowda's maiden RS speech cut short to 9 mins

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

FORMER Prime Minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda, who was making his maiden speech in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday on the issue of the farm Bills, was asked to wind up just three minutes into it.

He was repeatedly asked by Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh to conclude, even as many members from the NDA benches were heard interrupting the former PM to wrap up.

After several reminders, Deve Gowda (87) finally finished about nine minutes into his speech after which Harivansh Narayan Singh allowed the next speaker.

"What is the point in being upset," Gowda rued. Speaking to *TNIE*, he said, "The whole system looks like it is going to collapse. Our democratic system seems to have reached a dead end. What was the need to hurry with the Bill? We could have been allowed more time to discuss this very important issue. How can there be voting when the House was not in order?" he questioned.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Former PM H D Deve Gowda takes oath in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Govt collects ₹84k cr non-tax revenue

New Delhi: The Centre has so far collected non-tax revenue of ₹84,023.78 crore during the financial year, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said on Sunday.

India extends $250 mn support to Maldives

Male: India has provided financial aid of $250 million to the Maldives to help it mitigate the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian embassy said on Sunday. **P9**

IPL 13

CAPITALS VS KINGS XI

After Marcus Stoinis' knock, Kagiso Rabada's Super Over ensured an opening round victory for Delhi Capitals. **P11**

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

KARNTAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

8,191 TEST POSITIVE ON SUNDAY

5,19,537 TOTAL CASES

4,13,452 TOTAL DISCHARGES

98,043 TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

8,023 TOTAL DEATHS

P4

Critical BJD, AIADMK line put Centre in a tight position

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

DID the treasury benches have the numbers to get the farm sector reform bills passed in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday had the ayes and nays been actually counted through a process called division? The question is intriguing since a clutch of regional parties that generally vote with the NDA in the Upper House, like the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), the AIADMK and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), were critical in their assessment of the pieces of legislation. The BJD actually echoed the Opposition demand that the bills be referred to a select committee. While the TRS has seven members in the House, both the AIADMK and the BJD have nine each. Sizeable figures, given the fractured nature of the Rajya Sabha.

Also, three NDA votes would have gone to the Opposition, as the Shiromani Akali Dal is bitterly opposed to the bills. On the flip side, the YSR Congress, with six MPs, backed the bills.

For the record, the Centre claimed it had the numbers to get the legislations passed.

During the debate, Amar Patnaik (BJD) argued that the bills will lead to cartelisation. "Remunerative prices will not be the same. Who will fix it? Will it lead to market capture? Is the bill only for corporates? I would urge sending it to a select committee," he said.

S R Balasubramoniyam (AIADMK) alleged that the Centre has bulldozed farm reforms during Covid-19. "The Centre should ensure farmers don't get cheated. It can establish a central agriculture regulatory authority like the electricity regulatory authority to support farmers," he suggest.

Echoing them, K Keshava Rao (TRS) said the bills are a brutal assault on the Constitution and violate the spirit of federalism.

"If this is the new age (revolutionary), we are against it as you are putting poor farmers against rich corporates... Did you talk to us or did you consult the people? The bills will turn farmers to landless labourers," he charged. **P7**

> **This is like disinvestment in the Indian farming sector... If these bills are passed, states will not have any power to check profiteering, hoarding and black marketing** — S R Balasubramoniyam, AIADMK

Packed session as House meets today

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

THE eight-day session of the Karnataka legislature, which begins on Monday, is expected to be a stormy affair with big-ticket bills, limited time for discussion and a host of precautionary measures in view of Covid-19.

The seventh session of the 15th Assembly will commence at 11 am as per the Karnataka Conduct of Government Business in the State Legislature Act, 2005, under which it is mandatory for the legislature proceedings to be held for a minimum 60 days in four sessions in a year. The last time both Houses were convened was in March this year. Precautionary measures have been put in place, like mandatory Covid-19 screening and production of negative certificate, limited access to the halls, alternate seating and sanitisation.

While it is convention to adjourn the House on the first day after obituary references in the case of death of a sitting member, business has been listed for both the Assembly and Council on Monday. Being just an eight-day session, both Houses will see the introduction of at least 10 new Bills, 19 Bills to replace ordinances and two pending from the previous session. **P3**

Vidhana Soudha being readied for the session beginning on Monday | EXPRESS

DIP IN GROWTH, REVENUE DEFICIT STATE'S BUGBEARS

The contraction in the economy has severely impacted most sectors, including those that are considered key engines of economic growth. The situation looks dire as recovery may take a long time even as the pandemic rages on. To put the economy back on track, the government is taking a number of measures. In this series, *The New Indian Express* will take a look at the impact of Covid-induced slowdown on various sectors; government and private, organised and unorganised

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

With reduced funds from devolution, uncertainty over Central grants and GST compensation and increased borrowing that may still not be able to offset the revenue loss, Karnataka may for the first time see a revenue deficit this fiscal year. As the country's GDP has contracted by a massive 23.9 per cent in the first quarter (the period worst hit by the Covid lockdown) for the fiscal 2020-21, Karnataka is unlikely to be an exception.

Unlike the Union government, Karnataka does not assess growth on a quarterly basis, but is hopeful of faring better than most other states, given its diversified economy. While sectors like IT & BT and agriculture are expected to achieve or exceed the growth rates estimated in this year's budget, others like manufacturing, real estate and transport are likely to see a slowdown. Within the manufacturing sector, defence is faring well, while aerospace is seeing a setback, according to the Industries and Commerce Department.

"We have suffered losses of thousands of crores during the lockdown. But we hope that we will maintain the predicted growth rate (10 per cent) in our new industrial policy," said Jagadish Shettar, Minister for Large and Medium-Scale Industries, acknowledging the impact of the lockdown on industries. He added that the workforce is yet to be restored to its full capacity since production had halted and is now recovering slowly. In 2019-20, the growth rate for industries in Karnataka stood at 4.8 per cent and the services sector at 7.9 per cent.

The state is positive on agriculture as good monsoons have led to increased sowing. With the floods in August damaging far less agricultural lands in comparison to last year, the government is pinning its hopes on a bumper harvest this year. "The total targeted area under Kharif sowing was 74 lakh hectares, but we have achieved more than that and we expect another 1.5 lakh hectares covered. We have rarely crossed 67 lakh hectares in the past. The quantity of fertilisers consumed is also an indicator of not just sowing but also of the health of agriculture. We have consumed 30 per cent more fertilisers than last year and that is an indication of a bumper crop. We can expect 30-35 per cent more yield than targeted," said Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Director, Agriculture Department.

But experts suggest that agriculture independently doing well as a sector may not salvage the economy. "With migrant labourers returning to rural areas, there are more hands available for agriculture. Moreover, the returns in the sector are dependant on prices for the produce. But the scenario is not good for real estate that has lost labour due to the lockdown. At a time when the Country is facing a contraction, Karnataka is unlikely to be an exception, simply because its IT sector and agriculture will fare well and revenues targets from excise will meet the targets," said Prof Narendar Pani, Economist, Professor and Dean, National Institute of Advanced Studies.

While the state is yet to make an estimated projection of its growth and the impact of Covid on its finances, revenue generation has hit a roadblock. CONTINUED ON: P5

COVIDONOMICS PART-1

Rain fury returns, 1 dies in Dakshina Kannada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER a short breather, heavy rainfall has returned to parts of Karnataka, causing large-scale damage to life and property. Even as the state is still reeling from the aftermath of the floods in August and in 2019, rain battered Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Belagavi districts.

The state had estimated the damage due to the August floods at over ₹8,000 crore while the loss was put at more than Rs 35,000 crore last year. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, during his New Delhi visit last week, had sought additional funds under National Disaster Relief Funds citing consecutive floods in the state.

On Sunday, one person was killed and four others were injured due to heavy rains, landslide and flooding in Dakshina Kannada while 25 houses were damaged. Kodagu district is on orange alert till Monday following continuous downpour over the past four days.

Bhagamandala and Talacauvery received 6.88 inches (175 mm) rainfall in 24 hours till Sunday morning and Ayengeri Road was submerged. The water level in Cauvery is witnessing a gradual increase. Severe damage was also reported at coffee estates in Kodagu.

In Udupi district, 2,000 people from 700 families were rescued from floods caused by torrential rains. The situation forced the Udupi district administration to summon the NDRF from Mangaluru. Connectivity was cut off after the Neermarga-Katinja road on the outskirts of Mangaluru caved in.

A landslip on the bypass railway line between Konkan Railway network and South Western Railway network near Padil in Mangaluru affected movement between Konkan Railway and Hassan/ Mysuru/ Bengaluru. With heavy rains in the catchment, 65,000 cusecs of water was released from both Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagar reservoirs on Sunday. People have been advised to move away from low-lying areas as the discharge is likely to be increased.

Soya crop cultivated in many villages of Belagavi district was destroyed by heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday. As rainwater stagnated in the fields, farmers struggled to save their produce. SEE: P5

People stuck on rooftops wait to be rescued in Udupi district on Sunday, after their houses were inundated due to torrential rain | EXPRESS

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday 21/09/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Dakshinayana • Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Adhika Ashwayuja • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Chaturthi 7:27 am • Nakshatra: Vishaka 2:53 am • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 21°C | MAX 25°C
FORECAST: Light showers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.08 am | Sunset 6.16 pm | Moonrise 9.50 am | Moonset 9.43 pm

Private schools call govt order to keep students away 'unfair'

Big sums spent on sanitisation, preparing teachers, says president of schools association

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

PRIVATE schools have opposed the government's decision to disallow them to hold offline consultative classes with students from September 21. The flak comes after the government on Saturday decided against allowing class 9-12 students to visit their schools because of the growing number of Covid cases. This was despite the central government giving its nod for consultative offline sessions for clearing doubts.

The state government's Vidyagama project that takes teachers to the doorstep of students, however, continues uninterrupted and has become a bone of contention.

"If private school students face the threat of Covid, so do government school students. The government must stop Vidyagama," said president of the Associated Management of English Medium Schools in Karnataka Shashi Kumar. He termed the last-minute announcement by the government on Saturday on extending the shutdown till September-end as 'unfortunate'. Several schools have already spent thousands of rupees on sanitising premises, preparing teachers and getting approval letters from parents, he said.

If private school students face the threat of Covid, so do govt school students
Shashi Kumar, President, Associated Management of Eng-Medium Schools

Pvt schools to write to govt on call to keep students off campus

The state government's decision is to attract students to the Vidyagama programme and put private unaided budget schools as at a disadvantage, he said. Under Vidyagama, teachers are expected to take classes in the open, but students are being taught in classrooms, he alleged.

On Monday, private schools will submit a representation to the government against its decision to disallow students from visiting the campus.

How to live with 40% pay cut, ask engg college profs

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

"WE have been surviving by God's grace," said Rajesh K (name changed), a faculty member of a private engineering college in the city.

"However, not everyone is fortunate enough to have a secondary source of income. I have a PhD and have been living with a 40 per cent pay cut since April. Several female lecturers with the same qualification have quit," he said.

Lecturers of private colleges who were facing a difficult situation with AICTE's rules in 2018-19 to increase the student ratio to teacher, thereby reducing the number of lecturers per college, are facing a double whammy with Covid-19, they say.

"The pandemic has been a convenient excuse to sack lecturers and cut salaries in several engineering colleges. Institutes have been reluctant in blaming the pandemic in their official communication, when asking lecturers to go on long leave or sacking them or cutting their pay. The Local Inspection Committee that assesses the institutes also took cognizance of the alarming salary and job situation. Lecturers wrote to the AICTE, to the Chief Minister and Prime Minister's Office. Yet, the situation on ground remains unchanged," said Rajashekar, president, Engineering Colleges Faculties Association.

They have sought a Government Order against dismissal of lectures by private colleges amid the pandemic and have demanded full salary.

"A majority are in the post of 'assistant lecturer' . The government should at least pay the stipulated pay that the AICTE has outlined, for the months of July and August. Every year, lecturers from private institutes are denied salaries as this is the vacation period. This year the number of such cases has increased," a college lecturer said.

"This year, engineering colleges started cutting pay from April itself. How are we to absorb such economic shocks," the lecturer said.

COLOUR POP FOR A GREY BACKDROP

Colourful umbrellas and raincoats bring much-needed brightness after Bengaluru woke up to overcast skies and consistent showers on Sunday. After a few days of relief, the state is again witnessing heavy rainfall and flooding | SHRIRAM BN

Pipeline, STP works at Bellandur Lake pick up

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE replacement of 40-year-old clogged sewage pipes is going on round-the-clock along the 16-km stretch from Shantala Silks (near KSR railway station) to the National Games Village in Koramangala. What makes this project stand out is that Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder (PCC) pipes are being used for the first time in the country.

The Rs 130-crore pipe-laying project, which started two years ago, is progressing simultaneously with the construction of a Rs 290-crore Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) near Bellandur Lake to treat sewage water coming through the pipelines, before being let into water bodies. The STP will be able to treat between 150 and 160 million litres of sewage water per day.

Pipe-laying work in progress | EXPRESS

Speaking to *TNIE*, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Chairman N Jayaram said that 14.2 km of the 16-km stretch has already been completed. "The remaining portion of the pipeline will be completed in three months. The STP is also set to be ready for operations. By January 2021, we are looking at putting an end to pollution caused by entry of sewage into Bellandur, Varthur and Agara Lakes."

While MS (mild steel) pipes had been used for projects so far, the PCC pipes are of superior quality and absorb the Methane odour emanating from sewage. "We discussed this with experts, including scientists from the IISc, and decided on this specific material for the pipes though it would cost more," Jayaram said.

BWSSB encountered stiff opposition from the public in a few areas when they were in the process of laying the pipes.

A 600-metre stretch, where the pipeline is being laid presently, passes through Cubbonpet, Sultanpet and surrounding areas which have narrow roads and are deeply congested.

Bring back bike taxi, say experts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HOW does one keep the city's traffic moving? Key opinion leaders have suggested getting back the bike taxi as one of the possible solutions. They suggest having it as a pilot in some narrow congested areas to strengthen the last-mile connectivity with public transport.

Opinion leaders, MLAs and industry stakeholders submitted recommendations to Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan through a virtual town hall on Bengaluru Mobility on Saturday. The focus was to increase the adoption of public transport.

They pointed out to the government that as around 48 per cent use public transport and 80 per cent use two-wheelers, having bike taxis could help.

Revathy Ashok, CEO, Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC), said the government officials took note of the suggestion to constitute a unified authority comprising BBMP, traffic and transport departments to look at decongesting Bengaluru in a holistic manner on the London transit model.

It was suggested that TOD (transport oriented development), the Revised Master Plan and the City mobility plan be integrated and aligned so that traffic and infrastructure are equally distributed across the city.

The recommendations are a result of the #BengaluruMoving campaign.

Dr Ashwath Narayan said: "Building a transport system that is beneficial for both commuters and the environment is the priority of the government. In line with this, we are taking steps to increase adoption of public transport from 41 per cent to 73 per cent through a regulated public-private partnership model. Your report will give us insights into what each stakeholder needs."

Anjum Parwez, Principal Secretary Transport, said the government was working towards improving coordination between various agencies. "We are also taking innovations that have worked elsewhere, such as the TrinTrin bicycle system in Mysuru and seeing how we can make them work in Bengaluru too," he said.

Ravikanthe Gowda, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Bengaluru, said, "We have installed over 1,500 cameras across the city to monitor vehicular movement and have collected enough data to predict traffic hotspots."

The virtual town hall was organised by Bengaluru Needs You, Environment Support Group, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship and B.PAC.

Those who participated include Prof. Rajeev Gowda, former MP, N A Haris, MLA (Shanthinagar), Nandeisha Reddy, BMTC Chairman, Rajiv Aggarwal, Head of Public Policy South Asia - India, Uber, Pawan Mulukutla, Director, Electric Mobility, WRI India, World Resources Institute, and others.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21st September: There's a famous song in which the chorus runs 'I don't like Mondays'. How negative! Monday is a great day. For a start, it's ruled by the Moon, planet of poetry and emotional highs and lows. It's all part of life's rich tapestry so what can I say but 'have a good start to the week'!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The beginning of the week is bound to be dominated by questions of money, and what you can and can't afford will be the overriding issue of the times. Don't expect everything to be completed today, for there are further changes waiting in the wings.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
A build-up of lively lunar alignments is already sending emotional ripples in your direction. The waters of life may soon be a little choppier than you would like, but you may use any changes in your routine as an opportunity for self-reflection.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may be concerned first with how to put your ideas into practice, and secondly with how to prevent certain other people from knowing exactly what you're planning! Take trusted individuals into your confidence sooner rather than later, and you'll stand a better chance of getting your way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Think ahead. You may be concerned with the need to fulfil immediate responsibilities, but your day will be all the more successful if you have a long-term strategy. This, you see, will enable you to identify the underlying patterns in your affairs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The heart of all current questions concerns your ambitious desire to "be somebody". If you fail to make any effort in this direction you will bring frustration upon yourself. Ultimately, it doesn't matter whether you succeed or fail, just as long as you try.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
At home and in your private life you should expect a fair degree of confusion. This is to be welcomed as a sign that change is being forced upon you, giving you the opportunity to make whatever improvements you feel are necessary. Try to ensure that everyone shares in the benefits.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
There is still a great deal to gain from being as generous as possible. Remember all those wise sayings about not living by bread alone, and realise that money is there to be used, not hoarded away. Your high hopes will come to nothing unless you actually get on and do something about them!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
This is a fairly powerful period emotionally, but in many ways less intense than you have come to expect at such moments. The cause celebre of the day could be money, and if you're wondering just what is going on, give yourself a little more time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Get off to an efficient and organised start today. There is no time for early morning blues. Given that there may soon be a brief, stormy period at work, it's in your interests to be fully prepared. In fact, you'd be advised to steal a march on people at home as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
It may be an overstatement to say that this is a moment for unrestrained pleasure, but it is certainly a fine time to give the highest priority to your personal creativity and desire for self-expression. And don't let someone dent your enthusiasm, however hard they try.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Get back to basics today. For some of you this could mean that home and family affairs take up so much time that you never actually get going on anything else. At work, try as best you can to create a cosy atmosphere. Make sure that colleagues know they can rely on you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You are very certain of your plans, but less sure about which of them should take priority! It is strange indeed how you can at once be so sure of the future, yet so typically undecided! A useful start would be to check out what you can actually afford.

THE PHANTOM

MORNING...
"TELL ME IT'S NOT MORNING ALREADY..."
"IT'S MORNING ALREADY."
Falk 7/20
YOU'RE A DARLING...
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE IT'S TRUE.
FROM IBOK ?... I HAVE AN IDEA WHAT IT MIGHT BE ABOUT.

HI AND LOIS

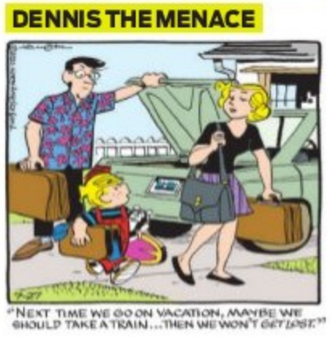
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

THE BOSS ACTUALLY CHALLENGED ME TO ARM-WRESTLE HIM FOR A RAISE
OH, DEAR!
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T EMBARRASS HIM, HONEY!
NO, I DIDN'T
IT TURNS OUT THE OLD FOX IS STRONGER THAN HE LOOKS

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE


"NEXT TIME WE GO ON VACATION, MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE A TRAIN...THEN WE WON'T GET LOST."

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

2				1		7		
9	3		6	5				
7		6				3		
		2		6	9	4		5
4		9	3	7		8		
		7				9		3
				4	2		8	1
		4		3				6

MEDIUM

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

8	4	5	1	9	2	3	6	7
9	1	3	7	6	8	2	4	5
7	2	6	4	5	3	9	8	1
5	6	1	3	8	9	7	2	4
3	7	2	6	4	1	5	9	8
4	8	9	5	2	7	1	3	6
2	3	7	8	1	6	4	5	9
6	9	4	2	7	5	8	1	3
1	5	8	9	3	4	6	7	2

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

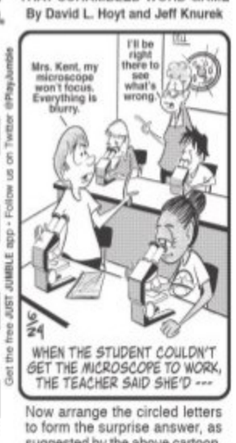
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NKLIB

TOODU

UTLNEN

ILOOER


Mrs. Kent, my microscope won't focus. Everything is blurry.
I'll be right there to see what's wrong.
WHEN THE STUDENT COULDN'T GET THE MICROSCOPE TO WORK, THE TEACHER SAID SHE'D ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OFTEN GRIND SOCCER MUTINY
Answer: She bought the new wristwatch, and then it was — TIME TO GO

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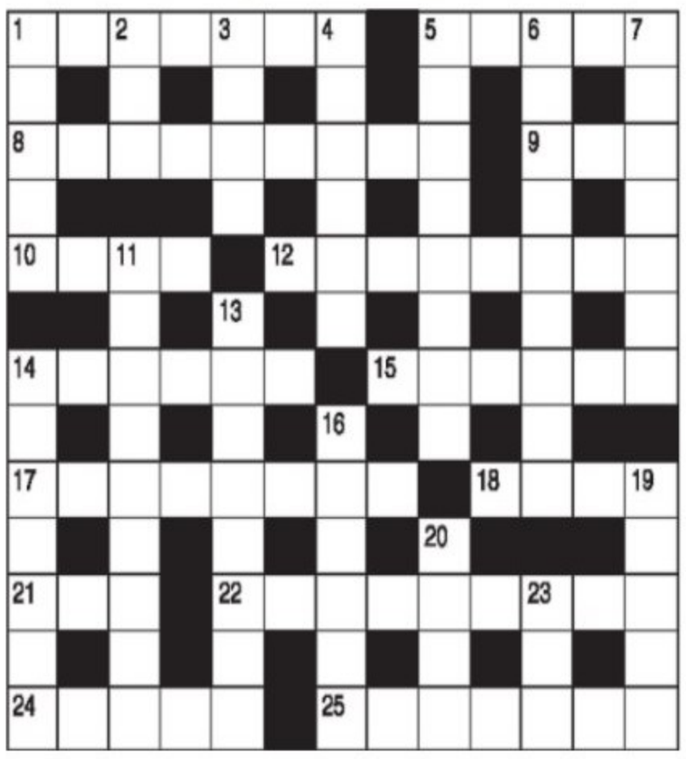
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 One would feel put out to be treated so (7)
5 Gather in great numbers for a service (5)
8 They fit out a vessel with spars (9)
9 The whole lot, though it sounds like less (3)
10 Goes unsteadily to turn back the power (4)
12 It sounds highly unnatural (8)
14 It is involved with a plan that is flexible (6)
15 Tell a story concerning the dead? (6)
17 Changing triangle formation (8)
18 Like one with a large area of land (4)
21 A drinking place in point (3)
22 Realistic science exam (9)
24 Back a favourite I'd found not so hot (5)
25 Makes one's own wings? (7)

DOWN

1 Writing directions for example (5)
2 Old priest taking part in the litany (3)
3 Trifles - child's play really (4)
4 Kind of fin found in cod or salmon (6)
5 Estimated value (8)
6 Dogs give assailant trouble (9)
7 Nobody in particular (7)
11 Document, having reached double figures, is fully described (7,2)
13 Nothing daunted, I printed a different version (8)
14 A key player (7)
16 A capital rank Arabs hold (6)
19 It should include these mountains (5)
20 Astound without ado (4)
23 One who confronts those engaged in a row (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Racecard, 5 Otic, 9 Lenin, 10 Minimum, 11 Masterstroke, 13 Icarus, 14 Pursue, 17 Heart-to-heart, 20 Unfrock, 21 There, 22 Palm, 23 Stiletto.

Down: 1 Roll, 2 Cantata, 3 Construction, 4 Remark, 6 Tempo, 7 Competes, 8 Instrumental, 12 High jump, 15 Serpent, 16 Pocket, 18 Awful, 19 Veto.

Jarkiholi pushes for UKP as national project

Karnataka has failed to use its share of 130tmcft; after Andhra split, TS, Seemandhra demand more water

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA will need about Rs 51,150 crore to complete Upper Krishna Project Stage 3, at a time when the revenue situation is precarious, due to the Covid pandemic. The project needs funds for civil works, rehabilitation of villagers and acquisition of about 1.34 lakh acres of land.

According to the water distribution award drawn up in 2011, Karnataka has to utilise its share of 130 tmcft of water, but has been unable to do so due to various challenges.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi told *TNIE*, "We have to complete it fast and use our rightful share of water. Nine projects are to be taken up -- lift irrigation schemes at Muluwad, Chimmalagi, Mallabad, Indi, Rampur, Herkal, Koppal, and extension work at Narayanpur Right Bank and Bhima Flank scheme."

Experts said that compared to the Cauvery project spread over 3.3 lakh hectares, and Bhadra on 2 lakh hectares, this mega project extending about 5.94 lakh hectares — double the size of Cauvery and three times the size of the Bhadra project.

Experts pointed out that the genesis of the problem lay in united Andhra Pradesh splitting into Telangana and Seemandhra, and demanding more than the share of a united Andhra Pradesh. This was much after Karnataka received the award of 130 tmcft, and has prompted Karnataka to file an interim application.

Jarkiholi was in New Delhi to press the Centre to heed Karnataka's demand on gazette notification on the project, which has been a major stumbling block. Experts said if the gazette notification, a mandated legal requirement, is complied with, they can seek funding from Asian Development Bank or National Bank Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) or Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

The water resources department is pushing for Upper Krishna Project Stage 3 to be taken up as a national project, considering it will directly benefit about 5 lakh farmers. If it is declared a national project, about 90 per cent of the funding will come from the Centre, and the State will have to bear just 10 per cent of the cost, which will greatly ease the burden on Karnataka's finances. The cost of land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement alone works out to over Rs 30,000 crore.

KPCC chief D K Shivakumar welcomes transgender activist Dr Akkai Padmashali into the Congress on Sunday | SHRIRAM B N

Transgender activist Akkai joins state Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a historic event of sorts, transgender activist Dr Akkai Padmashali joined the Karnataka unit of the Congress on Sunday. Akkai is the first from the sexual minority community to come into the party's state unit and joins the likes of Apsara Reddy, general secretary of Congress Mahila Morcha as representatives of the LGBTQ community.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar welcomed Akkai to the party fold with an assurance of seeing her as a mainstream leader rather than just a representative for sexual minorities.

"Dr Akkai Padmashali is an asset not just to Karnataka Congress, but to the country. She will be a mainstream leader for the party. Only those who work closely with people can be called leaders according to me, not those who have a position and a following," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Padmashali said that the decision to join the party was in the works for over 11 years. " The Congress supported the LGBTIQ community on Section 377, stood by the community after the 2014 Supreme Court judgement. Its openness towards the issue, the state policy for transgender during its tenure made me consider entering politics because if not now, then when? I do not want to legitimise the issues of sexual minorities in the party, but as a transgender woman, I should be able to raise my voice on global issues, democratic concerns and social inclusivity," she added.

COVID-PROOF COVER IN PLACE, SESSION TAKES OFF

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

TAKING off from Parliament, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council will have all precautions in place to hold a session during the pandemic. Although only an eight-day sitting, there is a willingness to tinker with rules of procedure to ensure social distancing norms.

In an unprecedented decision, the Assembly won't emphasise on legislators speaking from their designated seats. Only statements made by legislators in their designated seats make it to the official records of the House as per rules of procedure, but with the secretariat compelled to change seating arrangements, this rule will be suspended for this session. Access will be limited, while the public is prohibited from entering.

Many members, including Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and MLAs of all parties have tested Covid-positive and will give the session a miss.

Detailing the measures in place, MK Vishalakshi, in-charge secretary, Legislative Assembly, said 48 seats allotted to officials have been cut to 28, and only principal secretaries will be allowed inside the Assembly if a related subject is being discussed. "Ministers will be allowed to bring one personal assistant on need basis. The lounge will be off-limits to everybody. Security personnel of legislators and ministers will not be allowed inside. Personal secretaries will be accommodated on the ground floor." Similar measures are being undertaken in the Council as well.

Apart from police personnel at gates, secretariat officials will be posted to check Covid-19 certificates of all those entering the assembly. While mediapersons will be accommodated in the Speaker's Gallery on the second floor, deputy secretaries will be seated in the Visitors' Gallery.

With the assembly hall expanding in diameter with every row, precautionary measures are different for the first two rows. Since the last rows have ample distance between chairs, only glass partitions have been set up on joint seats from the third row, with continuous seating. The first two rows on the Opposition benches will have alternate seating. Treasury benches will have parallel glass partitions between joint seats.

All members will be given face shields and masks, and 50ml sanitiser bottles will be kept on each legislator's table.

The session also hopes to use digital space. Hard copies of starred questions will be presented in the House, while unstarred questions will be mailed to the members and media. All motions, notices and questions raised in the House will be put up on the Assembly website, officials said.

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA

1. Government focus is on ensuring passage of key Bills, including amendments to Land Reforms Act, APMC Act, Panchayat Raj Act, brought in via ordinances; Opposition keen on rejecting these amendments
2. Got will withdraw Karnataka Municipal (Amendment) Act of 2015 and Karnataka State Universities Act, 2017, introduce Karnataka Lokayukta (Second Amendment) Act, 2020, Karnataka Urban and Rural Projects (Second Amendment) Act, 2020, Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary (Amendment) Act, 2020, Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) (Amendment) Act, 2020, etc in the Assembly
3. Monday proceedings will include obituary references, Question Hour, including written and oral answers from ministers, 15 questions on flood-related damage, compensation for excessive rainfall, release of grants for development activities
4. Oppn to raise matters related to financial health, alleged misappropriation of Covid relief funds, alleged corruption in equipment procurement, among other issues

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STRAWS IN THE WIND

Village bird's message to royal tiger

It's a time to redeem pledges and fulfil promises, and reminding CM Yediyurappa constantly is Halli Hakki (village bird) Adagur Vishwanath, who is most upset with the Raja Huli (royal tiger). After all, he contends, it was he who accorded legitimacy to the rebellion of the MLAs that helped the BJP come to power. For Vishwanath, it's been a long struggle — his debacle at Hunsur where he lost the by-election, his attempts at getting himself elected to the Council, which was not to be as some unseen hands within the BJP checkmated him. He was finally nominated to the Council. Now he is reminding Yediyurappa to keep his promise and make him minister, what with the government already a year old. On Sunday, he held a meeting of his supporters, a group called 'Shepherds International', seeking to pressure the CM for his rightful seat. But can a village bird threaten a tiger? Only time will tell.

Pricey Delhi trip on chartered jet

CM Yediyurappa last week jetted in and out of New Delhi to discuss the cabinet rejig, and maybe, Covid. The journey cost about Rs 20 lakh — the aircraft owned by Fanmar from Chennai was hired through Deccan Aviation, the air taxi operator which arranged the logistics. And as is their wont, critics are nitpicking, asking if the trip was worth the big bill in these Covidian times, when the austerity belt should be strapped on securely. And couldn't the CM have chosen a regular commercial flight instead. They are also presenting back-of-the-envelope calculations to show that the CM, his Chief Secretary and his team could have completed the junket at a fraction of the cost, and maybe saved some funds for the pandemic battle.

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Ph.No.08482-226402/227261/229417 Fax No.08482-225416
E-mail:dccbank_bdr@yahoo.co.in

SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY THROUGH PUBLIC ACUTION

The public is hereby informed that The DCC Bank Ltd., Bidar, is conducting Public auction of the immoveable properties at Item-I and Item-II of schedule here below. The auction will be conducted on 06.10.2020 at 11.30 am onwards as per the terms and condition set out here below. Anyone interested may participate in the said auction as per the terms and condition enumerated below.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND AUCTION DETAILS.

Schedule Item-I

All that piece and parcel of the premises bearing Municipal No.9-9-121/41 (Old) /9-9-150(New), constructed over the plot no.41, admeasuring East-West: 90 feet and North-South: 60 feet. Equivalent to 5400 square feet, located in the approved layout of Survey No:31/1 and part of Survey Nos.34/1 and 36, situated at NGO's Housing colony, in Jangalkoi, Bidar, within the boundaries, by: East - 30 feet wide road; West- Plot No.34; North - 30 feet wide road; South - Plot no.42; Comprising of cellar floor, Ground floor and first floor.

Reserve Price: 2, 54, 00,000/-
Date of Auction: 06.10.2020
EMD Price: 25, 40,000/-
DCC Bank Ltd., Bidar Head Office
Near Basweshwar Circle Bidar 585401.

Schedule Item-II

All the piece and parcel of the open plot one bearing No.39, now assigned with Municipal No.9-9-122/A (Old) /9-9-150/1 (New), admeasuring East-West :90 feet and North –South: 60 feet, equivalent to 5400 square feet, located in the approved layout of Survey No:31/1 and part of the Survey Nos.34/1 and 36, situated at NGO's housing colony, in Jangalkoi, Bidar within the boundaries, by: East - 30 feet wide road; West - Plot No.32; North - open land; South - Plot No. 40;

Reserve Price: 99,00,000/-
Date of Auction: 06.10.2020
EMD Price:9,90,000/-
DCC Bank Ltd., Bidar Head Office
Near Basweshwar Circle Bidar 585401.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION:

1. The public auction will be conducted in the premises of The DCC Bank Ltd., Head Office, Near Basaveshwar Circle, Bidar-585401,
2. For participation in the auction, the intending bidder has to deposit EMD through Demand Draft in favour of CEO DCC Bank Ltd., Bidar an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price of the property being auctioned which deposit is refundable.
3. The successful bidders should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day at the sale in cash/D.D to the bank and the balance within 15 days from the date of auction.
4. The auctioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and condition of public auction, time and commits default in any manner.
5. The successful bidders shall bear all expenses like Stamp Duty, Registration fee etc., for getting the Sale deed made in his/her favour.
6. The schedule property will be auctioned in as and where condition.
7. The CEO DCC Bank Ltd., Bidar shall have powers to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof.
8. The benami bid by any bidder is strictly prohibited the person who intend to bid through any of his /her/its duly authorised representative shall produce an authority letter by such absentee bidder.
9. For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending bidders may contact the undersigned at **The DCC Bank Ltd., Head Office, Near Basaveshwar Circle, Bidar-525401, and (Karnataka State) Tel.No:08482-226402/226263/227261/229417 Fax No: 08482-225416 Email:dccbank_bdr@yahoo.co.in they are at liberty to make their own assessment enquiry about the property.**

Date: 19.09.2020
Place: Bidar
Sd/-
CHEIF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE DCC BANK LTD., BIDAR.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- Tender Notice No. 04-CWM-UBLS-2020-21 Dated:16.09.2020
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work :

Description of Work	Approx. Value
Eddy Current Array testing of wheel sets during shop schedule-I of LHB coaches at Carriage Repair Workshop, Gadag Road, Hubballi.	Rs. 7,90,350/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 08.10.2020
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Workshop Manager, Hubballi
PUB/143/AAV/PRB/SWR/2020-21

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PUBLIC NOTICE
I Mr. R.V.RAGHAVAN would like to inform the general public that I have misplaced original sale deeds as below Sale Deed No 1. Sri R.V.RAGHAVAN and Smt.K.R.RAGHAVAN Registration Document No 12550/1995-96 Dated 02-03-1996. Sale Deed No.2, Smt. K. R RAGHAVAN and Sri. NIKHIL RAGHAVAN, Registration Document No12448/1995-96, Dated 01-03-1996, Sale Deed No.3. Sri.R.V.RAGHAVAN and Sri.HARSHA RAGHAVAN, sale deed registration No 12246/1995-96, Dated 01-03-1996 all above sale deeds registered In the office of the sub-register, Krishna rajapuram, Bangalore. If anyone find it, kindly contact me at 9845026440 within **15 days** from the date of issue of this Ad. or return to below mentioned address.
Sd/- **R.V. RAGHAVAN**
41, Hollywood Town, Devanahalli, Sadahalli, Bangalore Rural 562 110
Place: Bangalore, Dated: 02.09.2020

Repco Home Finance
REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED
109, First Floor, A - Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being Authorised Officer of Repco Home Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** dated **15-11-2019** calling upon the **Borrower: Mr. M. Sudhakar,** S/o, Srinivaslu Maripati, No. 39, Sakamma Layout, 4th Cross, PWD Road, A.Narayanapura, Bangalore - 560 016, **Also at,** Sri Srinivasa Earth Movers SCFC Bank, Building TG Extension, Hosakote Town, Bangalore - 562 114, **Co-Borrower : Mrs. S. Kushboo,** W/o, M. Sudhakar, No. 39, Sakamma Layout, 4th Cross, PWD Road, A.Narayanapura, Bangalore - 560 016, **Guarantor: Mr. K. Suresh,** S/o, Kadiri Nagesh, No. 142/1, M.V. Extension, Hosakote, Bangalore - 562 114 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice vide **Loan Account No. 2581890000374** being **Rs.15,68,862/-** with further interest from **06-11-2019** onwards and other costs thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower, Co-Borrower and the Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, co-borrower, guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this the **15th day of September 2020.**

The Borrower, Co-Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Repco Home Finance Limited, No. 109, First Floor, A - Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001 vide **Loan Account No. 2581890000374** for an amount of **Rs.17,87,674/-** with further interest from **15-09-2020** onwards and other costs thereon.

We draw your attentions to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at anytime before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset.

Description of the Property

All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Site No. 79, formed in converted property Sy. No. 67/2 (converted as per conversion order No. 221/2012-13 dated 30-09-2013 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District), in Nayanagreens Layout approved by Hosakote planning Authority, situated at Nadavatthi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, property ID No. 150300402500321075 and Measuring:

East to West: 30 feet; **North to South:** 40 feet;
totally measuring: 1200 Sq.ft., and bounded on:
East by: Site No. 88 **West by:** Road **North by:** Site No. 80 **South by:** Site No. 78

Place: **Bengaluru**
Date: **15-09-2020**
Authorised officer
Repco Home Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the general public that the original documents in respect of immovable properties situated at Bettenahalli Village, and Hegganahalli Villages, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk have been misplaced/lost. We have also lodged a Police Complaint and the same has been registered vide Complaint dated 18.09.2020. If any person/s finds holding the below mentioned documents is/are requested to return the same at the address mentioned hereunder and the expenses incurred for the same shall be reimbursed.

DETAILS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS LOST/MISPLACED :

1) Sy.No.73/P4 - Sale deed dt.24.01.2005, **Doc.No.4293/2004-05,** from Ramakrishnachari and others to M.Raghavaiah **2) Sy.No.94**- Sale deed dt.05.01.1972, **doc.No.2814/1971-72,** from P.Suryanarayana Sastry to Patallappa **3) Sy.No.113/2**- Confirmation deed dt.13.02.2006, **doc.No.6169/2005-06** from Muniarasappa and others to Munikrishnappa & others; **4) Sy.No.95**- Sale deed dt.05.10.1979, **doc. No.1305/78-79** from Dodda Arasappa to P.Srinivasaiah & Anr.; **5) Sy.No.98** - i) Sale deed dt.05.11.1974, **doc.No.3541/74-75**, from B.S. Vishweshwaraiah to Byathappa; ii) Sale Deed dt.05.10.1978 **doc. No. 1306/78-79**, from Byathappa to Shyla Kumari; **6) Sy.No.101/2** - Rectification deed dt.20.07.1981, **doc.No.603/81-82,** from Chikkasiddappa to V.P. Krishnamachari; **7) Sy.No.106/1, 106/2, 106/3** - Sale deed dt.28.07.2005, **doc.No.2073/05-06**, from Annamma & Ramakka to J.M.Chandrappa **8) Sy.No.107** - i) Sale deed dt 01.05.1972, **doc.No.506/1972-73,** from B.S. Krishna Rao to Bangara Raju, ii) Sale deed dt 24.01.1979 **doc.No.2001/1978-79,** from Bangara Raju to Shyla Kumari; iii) Sale deed dt.01.05.1972, **doc.No.507/1972-73** from B.S.Krishna Rao to Gangamandadi; iv) Sale deed dt.17.04.1980 **doc.No.83/1980-81,** from Gangamandadi to Shyla Kumari; **9) Sy.No.121/1** - Sale deed dt. 24.08.1970, **doc.No.2417/70-71** from Batheppa to T.L.Padmanabhaiah Gupta;

B - Property at Hegganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk -

1) 94/B1 (NewNo.117)-Sale deed dt 23.07.2001, **doc.No.1070/2001-02** from Kariyappa to P.Narasimha Raju, **2) 94/B2 (New No.118)**- Sale deed dt 03.02.2001 **doc.No.1797/2000-01**, from Muniyamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **3) 94/B3 (New No.119)**- Sale deed dated 05.02.2001, **doc. No.1830/2000-01** from Muniyakka to P.Narasimha Raju; **4) 94/B4 (New No.120)**- Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc.No.1779/00-01** from Jayalakshmamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **5) 94/B5 (New No.121)**-Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc.No.1780/00-01** from Jayalakshmamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **6) 94/B6 (New No. 122)** - Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc. No.1775/2000-01**, from Venkataramanappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **7) 94/B7 (New No.123)**- Sale deed dt 03.02.2001 **doc. No.1800/2000-01** from Venkataswamy to P. Narasimha Raju; **8)94/B8 (New No.124)**- Sale deed dt 05.02.2001, **doc.No.1829/2000-01** from Venkataswamy to P.Narasimha Raju; **9) 94/B9 (New No.125)**- Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc.No.1778/2000-01**, from Yellamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **10) 94/B10 (New No.126)**-Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc. No.1781/2000-01**, from Venkataswamy to P.Narasimha Raju; **11) 94/B11 (New No.127)** - Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc.No.1777/2000-01** from Muniyanna to P. Narasimha Raju; **12) 94/B12 (New No.128)** - Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc.No.1776/2000-01** from Narayana Bhovi to P.Narasimha Raju; **13) 94/B13 (New No.129)**- Sale deed dt 03.02.2001, **doc.No.1799/2000-01**, from Lakshmana to P.Narasimha Raju; **14) 94/B14 (New No.130)**- Sale deed dated 09.04.2001 **doc.No.40/2001-02** from Ramaiah to P.Narasimha Raju; **15) 94/B15(New No.131)**- Sale deed dt.03.02.2001 **doc.No.1801/00-01** from Venkatamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **16) 94/B16(New No.132)**- Sale deed dated 04.06.2001 **doc.No.511/2001-02,** from Muniganagamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **17) 94/B17 (New No.133)**- Sale deed dt 04.06.2001, **doc.No.513/2001-02**, executed by Muniyappa in favour of P. Narasimha Raju; **18) 94/B18 (New No.134)** - Sale deed dated 02.06.2001, **doc.No.502/2001-02**, from Chikkamuniyappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **19) 94/B19 (New No.135)** - Sale deed dated 05.02.2001 **doc.No.1826/2000-01**, from Nagamma to P. Narasimha Raju; **20) 94/B20 (New No.136)** - Sale deed dated 05.02.2001 **doc. No.1831/2000-01,** from Narayanamma to P. Narasimha Raju; **21) 94/B21 (New No.137)**- Sale deed dated 05.02.2001, **doc.No.1832/2000-01**, from Nagamma to P. Narasimha Raju; **22) 94/B22 - (New No.138)**- Sale deed dt.03.02.2001, **doc.No.1796/2000-01**, from Venkataramanappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **23) 94/B23 (New No.139)**- Sale deed dated 09.05.2001, **doc.No.263/2001-02** from Tirumalappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **24) 94/B24 (New No.140)**- Sale deed dated 05.02.2001, **doc.No.1828/2000-01** from Muninagappa to P. Narasimha Raju; **25) 94/B25 (New No.141)**- Sale deed dt.05.02.2001 **doc.No.1825/00-01**, from Kathaalappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **26) 94/B26 (New No. 142)** - Sale deed dt 28.03.2001, **doc.No.2231/2000-01**, from Lakshmamma to P. Narasimha Raju; **27)94/B27 (New No.143)**- Sale deed dt 28.03.2001, **doc.No.2230/2000-01,** from Kempaiah to P.Narasimha Raju; **28) 94/B28 (New No.144)**- Sale deed dt 05.02.2001, **doc.No.1824/2001-02**, from Anjinappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **29) 94/B29(New No.145)**- Sale deed dt 02.02.2001, **doc.No.1774/2000-01**, from Muniyappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **30) 94/B30 (New No.146)** Sale deed dt.05.02.2001 **doc.No.1827/2000-01**, from Laskhmidevamma to P.Narasimha Raju; **31) 94/B31 (New No.147)**- Sale deed dt 03.02.2001 **doc. No.1798/2000-01** from Muniyappa to P.Narasimha Raju; **32) 94/B32 (New No.148)**- Sale deed dt 04.06.2001 **doc.No.512/2001-02,** from Pillaiah to P. Narasimha Raju; **33) 94/B33 (New No.149)**- Sale deed dt.15.10.2001, **doc.No.1790/2001-02**, from Srinivasa to P.Narasimha Raju.

Bangalore
Dated: 19.09.2020
Shreshta Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd.,
No.10, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore 560001
Phone No. 080 41343517

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU | MONDAY 21.09.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

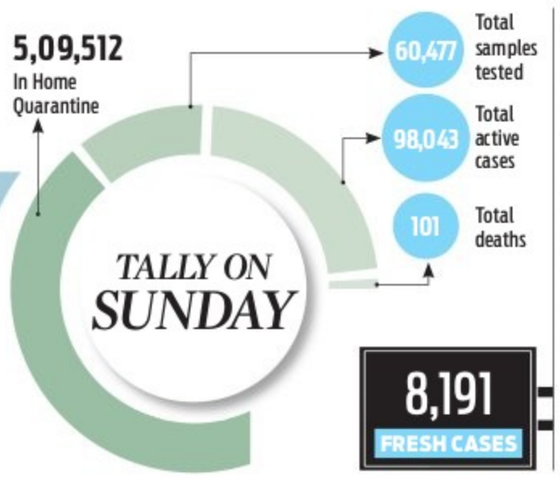
Doctors from the National Integrated Medical Association and Indian System of Medicine across the state will protest in front of AYUSH Commissioner / Directorate office on Monday

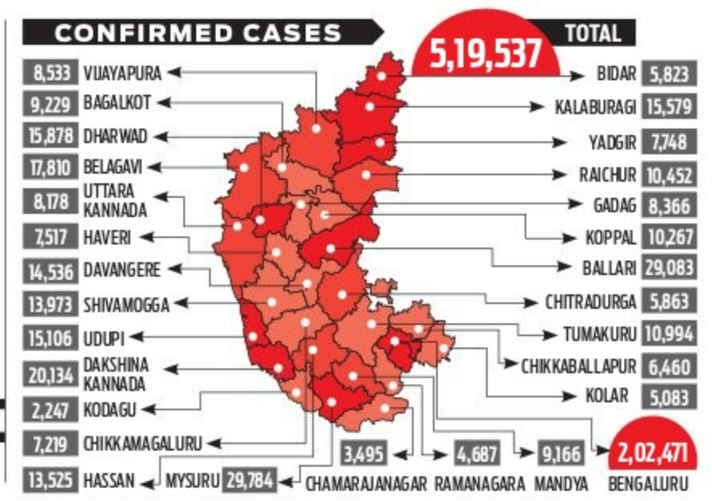
8,611 NEW RECOVERIES

4,13,452 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





Residents wait to be tested outside a BBMP fever clinic in Bengaluru | MEGHANA SASTRY

Isolation impacts mental health of +ve kids

Anxiety, irritability, weight gain, headaches noticed; Experts say home isolation preferable for young ones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE parents of a 12-year-old boy in Bengaluru, who underwent home isolation for Covid-19, were worried as he would cough and then faint, bringing his head to his knees or collapsing on his parent's shoulder, after recovering from the infection. They took him to the Out-Patient Department, only to find that nothing was medically wrong with him.

"The paediatric neurologist checked him and a CT scan was done as well, but they found nothing wrong. The doctors realised this was a form of attention-seeking behaviour as a result of being isolated in a room, with little attention from parents. Children want affection, interaction with parents and peers, and physical touch like hugging," said Neeraj Lal, vice-president and cluster head, Bengaluru and Karnataka region, Rainbow Children's Hospital.

Children can feel neglected when in isolation, and may assume that nobody cares about them. In this case, the parents were advised not to worry and instead, spend more time with him, engage him in games, listen to him and hug him, Lal added.

Home isolation is far better than isolating Covid-positive children in hospital if they are asymptomatic, experts say. Remaining within the four walls of a hospital for 14 days can be troubling for kids.

"Younger children in hospital become irritable, feel lonely and strange as they are attended to by people dressed in PPE kits, their appetite is hampered, they miss attention from parents and also from grandparents, if they come from joint families. Adolescents infected by Covid tend to feel anxious about having the illness itself," said Dr Archana, Paediatric Infectious Disease department, Manipal Hospitals.

> Younger children in hospital become irritable, feel lonely, their appetite is hampered as they miss attention from parents and from grandparents
>
> Dr Archana, Paediatric Infectious Disease dept, Manipal Hospitals

Irrespective of being infected by Covid or not, doctors find that isolating oneself at home has had a detrimental effect on children. Weight gain due to comfort feeding, headaches due to increased screen time, lack of sleep, low mood, inability to concentrate, forgetting what they have just learnt are some of the symptoms observed, owing to poor social interaction during this time, noted Dr Ravi Kumar, consultant, Paediatric Neurology, Aster CMI Hospital.

He came across a case where a mother would check the daughter's oxygen saturation levels on a daily basis, though she had not contracted the disease. "This led to the child having panic attacks, breakdowns and anxiety, fuelled by watching news on Covid-19 on television. A lot of anxiety has been observed in children in the age group of 8 to 12, where they assume that Covid means death. They become quiet and withdrawn," Dr Kumar said, adding, "As there is no clear distinction between office and home due to work from home, parents are, in fact, paying lesser attention to children, which affects them."

As per the September 19 Covid State War Room report, there have been 17,616 patients in the 0-10 age group, and 17 deaths.

Expert panel to study long-term effects of Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A special technical committee of medical experts will shortly be formed to research the long-term effects of Covid-19 on recovered patients.

Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "We will evaluate those who had mild and severe symptoms, especially those with co-morbidities. The team will develop strategies for clinical care to improve long-term health of those recovered from Covid."

Dr Sudhakar said, "Countries across the world are beginning to realise the importance of evaluating the long-term effects of Covid. The Vaccine Research Group of Mayo Clinic in the US has listed organs that may be affected by Covid and also raised concerns over significant cellular damage this virus can cause. Doctors in Chennai who have recovered have complained about chronic fatigue."

He said, "The expert committee will assess both reinfection and other complications. The findings will help us make suitable modifications in our treatment protocols and post-Covid care. We will soon identify experts and decide on the scope of the study."

Earlier, Dr Sudhakar had sought a clinical study on a reinfection case and said that it is still going on.

Sakra World Hospital, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital and St John's Medical College in the city have already started post-Covid rehabilitation centres.

Dr Sachin Kumar, Senior Consultant - Pulmonology & Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital, said, "The repercussions of Covid have left people with breathing problems. Post-Covid side-effects include breathlessness, sleep difficulties, fatigue, significant muscle deconditioning and loss of strength. Some people are struggling with their daily tasks which increases their dependency on family members, while others may suffer from health-related anxiety and depression. Covid patients with compromised health conditions, specifically those with an extended stay in the ICU, are recommended to undergo a comprehensive pulmonary rehabilitation as it plays a major role in the recovery process."

Corporation workers conduct the last rites of a Covid victim in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

Virus toll crosses 8K-mark in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Covid-19 death toll in Karnataka continues to mount with the state breaching the 8K mark in fatalities. With 101 deaths reported on Sunday, the tally stands at 8,023 in the state. One of the day's reported deaths was of a one-year-old girl from Mysuru who suffered breathlessness. She was admitted on September 15 and passed away the same day at a private hospital. She had no known source of contact or travel history.

The fatality rate has been the highest -- that is 6.5 per cent – in the above 60 age group. Dharwad, Bidar, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru and Koppal top the district wise case fatality rates. Karnataka has still not managed to bring its mortality percentage below 1, with the current figure at 1.5 per cent.

Bengaluru Urban which has a case fatality rate of 1.4 per cent, reported 3,322 positive cases on Sunday. The state as a whole reported 8,191 positive cases, which took the state tally up to 5.19 lakh (5,19,537) cases.

8th ASHA workers dies of Covid; Protest on Sept 23

Bengaluru: Meena, an ASHA worker with Hesaraghatta PHC, died on September 18. She is the eighth ASHA worker to succumb to the virus in the state. Nagalakshmi, president, AIUTUC, said a protest will be held on September 23. Their demands include a salary hike and sufficient PPE kits. "ASHA workers have been doing home visits, collecting swab samples, screening travellers, putting them at great risk," Nagalakshmi said. ENS

COVID WATCH

Covid +ve students to write SSLC supplementary

Bengaluru: A total of 2.13 lakh students will appear for the SSLC supplementary exams from September 21. Mathematics is the first paper and Science is the last on September 28. Sources said the department will allow Covid-positive students to appear for the exams at Covid Care Centres. SSLC Board director Sumangala said the number of Covid-positive students will be known only on Monday. ENS

Contractual workers to strike from Sept 24

ENS @Bengaluru

STARTING from September 24, the work at Covid-attached ICUs, fever clinics, isolation centres, wards and surveillance and survey of primary and secondary contacts is likely to be affected as members of the Karnataka State Health and Medical Education Department Contractual and Outsourced Employees Association (KSHCOEA) are going on strike.

The members said that nearly 30,000 National Health Mission workers are striking work as the government has not met their demands or formed a committee to look into their demands as promised earlier.

Vishwaradhya H Yamoji, president, KSHCOEA, said, "From Monday, we will start submitting our memorandums to all DCs, and after that, we will start shouting slogans and holding placards. From 24, we will be on strike and end it only when our demands are met."

He said that staff nurses, ambulance drivers, data entry operators, lab technicians, Ayush doctors, ANMs, counsellors, supervisors, senior tuberculosis supervisors and others have been working without job security, unequal wages as compared to permanent health staff. "We have met all the ministers so far to address our demands and what we have got are just promises. We need to be paid like all other staff," he said.

CRIME IN THE TIME OF CORONA

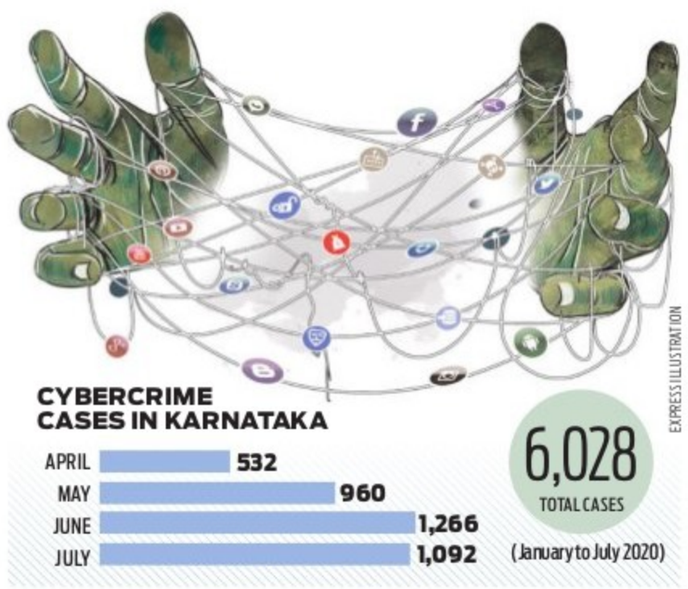
It's unlock time for fake escort websites

TEAM TNIE

NEXT time when you see an advertisement online with the photo of a beautiful woman offering escort services, think before you click. For the folly of clicking on the ad, you may end up losing a lot of money.

Ever since the country started unlocking from the Covid-induced lockdown, several such escort sites have cropped up across the internet. They offer services of men and women escorts to customers from Bengaluru, Mysuru and other parts of the state.

Once a customer clicks the ad, he is asked to register himself at the escort club by calling a number and transferring some money. The website then sends the customer several photos of women and assures him that the woman he chooses will be sent to a safe location in his city. In most cases, that will be the last communication the customer will likely have with the escort club and he will have to forget his money. That is if he is lucky. There are several websites that go a step further and start blackmailing and extorting money from their customers, threatening to go public with the communication.



Chasing this story, a correspondent from The New Indian Express contacted a number, 99*****301, posing as a client and a woman responded, listing the requirements and assuring him of providing the escort service at a service apartment, but only after a minimum amount is transferred to their account for membership.

After the money was transferred, the correspondent was asked to go to a location. When he reached there, he got a call saying he needed to remit another Rs 30,000 as a security deposit to avail of the service the first time. When he asked why this was not revealed earlier, a woman at the other end said that she would try to make an arrangement without a deposit.

When the correspondent insisted that the initial deposit should be returned, the website handlers started threatening him, saying they would share his voice records with his friends on social media platforms.

Sources said that though the first seven months of this year, from January till July, have seen a dip in offline crime cases, cybercrimes have shot up and 6,082 cases have been reported across the state.

A senior IPS officer, attached to the cybercrime cell, said that though most cybercrime cases are related to phishing, a significant number is also related to men being cheated by such escort websites. But majority of these cases go unreported because of social stigma, he added.

"Most of these fraudsters operate from remote villages in North Indian states, like Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Our teams have visited these states to investigate, but we have not been successful," he said.

Mysuru ADGP (Crime) Parashiva Murthy said that the police are creating awareness on online frauds and are also training the staff at the cyber cell to investigate the cases effectively. He said that they are keeping a track of such websites, but refused to reveal details.

As the investigation into the drug racket picks up, CCB officials say that during investigation, the names of 50 personalities have cropped up

SOME SANDALWOOD BIGWIGS ON CCB RADAR

CCB officials are getting ready to issue notices to several prominent personalities of the Kannada film industry | MEGHANA SASRTY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Central Crime Branch (CCB) police probing the Sandalwood drug racket are making preparations to issue notices soon to a few other artistes, including some bigwigs of the Kannada film industry, in connection with the case.

"All these days we have been gathering information and substantiating evidence about some of the celebrities. We are discussing a plan of action like whether it is good to issue a notice or carry out raids. Once it is finalised, we will crack down on them," an official said.

It is said that the arrested persons and those who appeared for the interrogation have named more than 50 people. "The names include personalities from the film industry and the kin of politicians. We cannot initiate action without any evidence and hence more information is being gathered about those who have been named," the official added.

It is learnt that two actor sons of a senior actor and others are on the radar of the police and they will be picked up for questioning or will be issued a notice soon.

Meanwhile, activist Prashanth Sambargi, who has been revealing names of those allegedly involved in the drug racket, is likely to hold a press conference on Monday. It is said that he will reveal the names of two big stars of the Sandalwood at the press conference.

On Saturday, Sambargi had tweeted that he will reveal the names of two big actors and a few others involved in the case shortly.

> The names include personalities from the film industry and the kin of politicians. We cannot initiate action without any evidence, and hence, more information is being gathered about those who have been named
>
> – CCB official

Man 'close' to Ragini held, drugs seized

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CENTRAL Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested another person in the ongoing Sandalwood drug racket case, and have seized narcotics from him. Police said that actress Ragini Dwivedi, who has been arrested, had visited the accused's apartment three-four times in the last few months.

The accused is Srinivas Subramanian, alias Sri. Sandeep Patil, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), said Subramanian's name had come up during investigation." On Saturday, the CCB detained him and his flat was searched. During the search, 13 ecstasy tablets, 100 gm of ganja, 1.1 gm of MDMA and hashish were seized. Also, one of the actresses in custody had visited this flat three-four times in the last few months," Patil added.

Sources said that Dwivedi was in close contact with Subramanian, and had visited his flat several times. "Ravishankar, another accused, had revealed that Subramanian and Vaibhav Jain were business partners. They had both rented houses in the outskirts of the city, where they organised parties. Based on this information, Subramanian's flat was raided and he was arrested," an official said.

Two men barged into a retired teacher's house and stabbed him in Yeshwanthpur on Saturday. The victim Huliyappa (77), a resident of Subedarpalya, is recovering in a hospital. The accused Suhail and Rajesh have been arrested. The duo attacked him over a land dispute

TRAIL OF WOE IN MALNAD, COAST

1 The water level of the Cauvery has reached alarming levels in Kushalnagar following continuous rainfall on Sunday 2 An elderly man being rescued from a flood-affected area in Mulki, Dakshina Kannada, by members of Mantra Surfing Club on Sunday 3 The Neermarga-Katinja Road on the outskirts of Mangaluru caved in, cutting off connectivity to the city on Sunday 4 An arterial road in the Kalsanka area in Udupi city was inundated due to continuous rain on Sunday

ORANGE ALERT IN 10 DISTRICTS OF KERALA

T'Puram: The Met Department predicted more rain in Kerala on Monday. The weather models issued by the India Meteorological Department sounded a red alert in eight districts — Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod — in the State on Sunday warning of extremely heavy rainfall in these districts till Monday noon. Orange alert had also been sounded in 10 districts on Monday, except Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha, warning of heavy rainfall till Tuesday noon. **ENS**

Terror module planned series of attacks

Accused involved in larger criminal conspiracy to raise funds for committing terror acts, says NIA

ARUN M @Kochi

MURSHID Hasan, alias Sofia, the alleged Al-Qaeda activist who was arrested from Pathalam in Kalamassery, was the head of the group of jihadi terrorists inspired by globally proscribed terrorist organisation, according to investigators. The group, consisting of more than 10 members, mostly of Bengali origin and operating in different parts of the country, was planning anti-national terrorist activities in several locations in the country.

Murshid Hasan, Mosaraf Hossen and Yakub Biswas, all hailing from Murshidabad in West Bengal, who were associated with the busted Al-Qaeda module, were arrested from Pathalam and Perumbavoor on Saturday. The NIA took Murshid Hasan and Mosaraf Hossen to New Delhi for further interrogation on an Air India flight from Nedumbassery on Sunday.

The interrogation of the sixth accused, Yakub Biswas, who was arrested from Perumbavoor, is under way. He will also be taken to New Delhi, according to NIA sources. The NIA, New Delhi, has registered the case under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Officials record the statements from the co-habitants of the Al-Qaeda operatives in front of the NIA office in Kerala | **A SANESH**

Hasan, who is a Bengali-speaking individual, had travelled to several places in south and east India. He is inspired by the violent ideology of Al-Qaeda. "A reliable input was received that some suspects are involved in the larger criminal conspiracy for raising and collecting funds for committing terrorist acts and furthering their jihadi ideology by recruiting and radicalising youths. The accused are activists of Al-Qaeda and are involved in hatching the conspiracy," said a document submitted by NIA before the court.

The group was suspected to be in possession of weapons and was actively raising funds for the purpose of procurement of arms and ammunition.

APP TO COLLECT ACCIDENT DATA FROM THE SPOT SOON

PREEJA PRASAD @Bengaluru

An integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) mobile application is likely to come up soon which will enable collection of accident data on the spot. This will help in analysing causes of road accidents and help reduce fatalities. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH), in-charge of the initiative, will be supported by the World Bank. The National Informatics Centre will provide the software while IIT-Madras will design the application for usage.

The pilot project will be implemented in six states -- Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

In Karnataka, four districts have been selected for the pilot project --- Belagavi, Bidar, Mandya and Tumakuru. Each district will have the Superintendent of Police as the nodal officer to coordinate the data collected.

The app will enable the stakeholders such as the Police, Transport, Health, PWD, NHAI to use their mobile phones to collect accident data on the spot.

Most importantly, it will enable police personnel to enter details about a road accident along with photos and videos, following which a unique ID will be created for the incident. Subsequently, an engineer from the Public Works Department or the local body will receive an alert on his mobile device. The officer will then visit the accident site, examine it and feed the required details, such as the road design. Data thus collected will be analysed by a team at IIT-M, which will then suggest if corrective measures in road design need to be taken. The Road Safety Authority will then implement the suggestions given.

A two-day Orientation and Training programme on iRAD App was already conducted by MORTH on September 7-8 in Bengaluru for the selected districts of Karnataka.

"The iRAD will have to be integrated with the VAHAN 4 server where all vehicle details are already in place. It will also be integrated with the SARATHI server to get the driver details. This will expedite the FIR registration and other litigation process including insurance. The Health department's 108 will also update on the victim's condition after the accident through the app," said Shivraj Patil, Additional Commissioner of Transport (e-governance & environment).

In Bengaluru alone, as on August 31, 2,066 road accidents have been reported by the city traffic police, out of which 390 were severely injured and 409 people have been killed.

'Country loses by curtailing speech'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RECALLING his days in the Lok Sabha in 2004, when the UPA government, led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, was in power, he said, "I remember I spoke at length for about one-hour-ten-minutes. We had three seats then — M Shivanna from Chamarajnagar, Veerendra Kumar from Kozhikode (Kerala) and myself."

Reacting to the development, former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy told *TNIE*, "The government would have been exposed if they had allowed the former PM to speak, because he was speaking with wisdom. Therefore, the treasury benches were heckling him. If the system does not have time for a farmer leader of the stature of Deve Gowda, then the loser is not him, but the country. Remember, one Union minister of the NDA, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, has already resigned on the issue of the farm Bills."

KAGODU SATYAGRAHA 2.0: CONG PROTESTS LAND ACT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

THE Congress protested against the Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Ordinance at Kagodu village in Sagar taluk on Sunday by burning a copy of the ordinance. Incidentally, it was Kagodu from where the historically significant Kagodu Satyagraha was launched by farmers in 1951 demanding the ownership of land they were cultivating.

The protest against the ordinance was led by former minister Kagodu Thimmappa, who had also taken part in the Kagodu Satyagraha back in his younger days. The ordinance has eased restrictions on buying agricultural land, on who can buy it and the ceiling on land holding. Thimmappa said, "The amendment that allows non-agriculturists to own agricultural land is nothing but a foolish decision by the government."

Former minister Kimmane Ratnakar alleged that the Centre and the state are coming out with anti-farmer policies. Thimmappa collected soil from the village to place it in a protest scheduled to be held at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

Fertile land not for industrial zone: HDK

Mysuru: Former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday opposed the State government's move to acquire fertile land for the development of an industrial area in Nagamangala. "I will not allow farmers to lose 1,222 acres on the Bengaluru-Manglauru highway," he said. Addressing farmers staging a protest against the proposed industrial area at Kalinganahalli and neighbouring villages, Kumaraswamy said his government had identified around 300 acres for an industrial area in Nagamangala, but made it clear that the JDS was against setting it up on fertile land. **ENS**

Revenue from excise, commercial taxes see uptick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE State has received reduced funds from Central devolution as per the 15th Finance Commission and is unlikely to get its GST compensation dues, while the state's own revenue receipts are suffering.

Finance Department sources suggested that while revenues were almost nil in the first few months - April and May - of the lockdown, June, July and August have seen a steady pickup. "Revenue receipts from excise has picked up almost to pre-lockdown times, while Commercial Taxes have reached about 85-90 per cent of the target. Revenues from Transport, Stamps and Registration have been low. Going by the current numbers, we may not be able to reach the targets set in the budget," said an official from the Finance Department.

The losses in revenue have already hit developmental activities with even ruling party MLAs complaining about lack of funds for their constituencies. Many projects announced by the earlier coalition government have been stalled due to shortage of funds. "Works had been kept pending due to lack of funds. But this time, we are borrowing to spend on development activities. Funds will start trickling in slowly," J C Madhu Swamy, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, told reporters on the day the cabinet approved an amendment to the Karnataka State Fiscal Responsibility Act to allow additional borrowing of Rs 33,000 crore.

If the current revenue receipts are anything to go by, the state might see a revenue deficit this fiscal year that will impact salaries of staff and pending projects.

EXPRESS READ

HAL employee hacked to death

Bengaluru: A 36-year-old man was hacked to death in public by a gang in Kadugodi on Sunday. The accused are yet to be arrested. The deceased, Rajesh, was a resident of Muneshwara Layout and was working in HAL as a helper. A police officer said that around 12.30pm, a gang hacked Rajesh to death with lethal weapons and fled. He was lying in blood for more than a hour while onlookers recorded the incident on their phones. A probe revealed that his wife Jasmin ended her life two weeks ago and her brother John Paul blamed Rajesh for it and he hatched a plot to kill him with his friend Dinesh. **ENS**

IRCTC ticketing scam: 111 touts arrested, 834 booking IDs blocked

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

As part of the ongoing crackdown against touts who block railway tickets online and sell them at a premium, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) arrested two agents after raiding their properties in Bommasandra and Fraser Town on Friday.

It has now blocked 834 mail IDs registered with the Indian Railway Catering Tourism and Corporation (IRCTC) that have been hacked and used by touts to book tickets.

A senior railway police officer said that the crackdown on touts started from January. "We have seized 3,713 train tickets worth nearly Rs 69,61,120 from January till date (September 18)," he said. In total, 93 cases have been registered and 111 touts arrested.

Explaining the modus operandi, a railway official said that the touts mastered the use of hacking software to obtain mail IDs of those who have registered with IRCTC. "The maximum number of cases booked -- 20 – was in August and 1,310 tickets were seized," he added. As per RPF data, most of the tickets seized (3,171) were those wherein the journey has already been undertaken by the passengers.

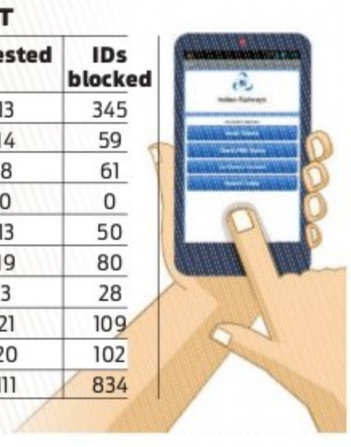
The railway cops involved in the raids have now tested positive for Covid-19, the officer revealed.

This problem has been plaguing Bengaluru for quite some time. In September 2019, a massive racket was unearthed after multiple raids by RPF in South Western Railway Zone wherein passengers were charged four to five times the ticket price by these touts. The arrest of an individual, who fled to Odisha, revealed that he used Pakistani-based software for hacking applications.

TICKET RACKET

Month	Cases	Arrested	IDs blocked
Jan	11	13	345
Feb	11	14	59
March	4	8	61
April	0	0	0
May	11	13	50
June	13	19	80
July	3	3	28
August	20	21	109
Sept*	20	20	102
Total	93	111	834

* Till September 18



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1. Operation & Maintenance of Utility Equipment including Housekeeping, Sanitation and other related works at Press Area as well as Township and other allied areas at BRBNMPL Salboni, Tender No. 017/SAL/PUR/2020-21 [Estimated Cost – ₹ 145.20 Lakh Per Annum]
2. Supply of Medicines & Medical items for Plant Hospital through Annual Contract Basis at BRBNMPL, Salboni Tender No. 018/SAL/PUR/2020-21 [Estimated Cost – ₹ 60.00 Lakh Per Annum]

The last date for submission of duly filled-in both the tender documents is 20/10/2020 at 11:30 hrs. For further details including amendments, if any, as well as downloading the tender documents, please visit our website https://www.brbnmpl.co.in

Deputy General Manager & O-I-C

Government of Karnataka
RAICHUR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hyderabad Road, Raichur-584102, Ph/Fax : 08532-238488/89
Web: www.rims-raichur.com Email : info@rims-raichur.com

No : RIMS/TEND/DIET/2020-21/72 Dated: 18-09-2020

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIET ITEMS

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Diet items RIMS Teaching Hospital RIMS, Raichur **for the year 2020-21** under two cover bid system **through E-Procurement Portal** of Government of Karnataka.
Name of Tender : Supply of Diet items for the year 2020-21, 2) EMD : 2.5% of the value of items, 3) Approximate cost of Tender : 92.14 Lakhs.
1) Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 19-09-2020, 2) Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 03-10-2020 upto 5.00 PM, 3) Technical bid will be opened on 05-10-2020 at 11.30 A.M.
Further information may be obtained from above office and from **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and also from this Institution website **www.rims-raichur.com**

Sd/- Director,
DIP/Raichur/320/MC&A/2020-21 Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur

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This is to infom the public at large, that the FED BANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.(Fedfina), has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or have committed defaults or margin breach by the respective customers in spite of repeated notices. The Auction would be held at respective Branches Specified below on Thursday 1-10-2020 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. This would continue till the auction process is over

BASAVESHWARA NAGAR 080 41900282 **FEDBSN0GL**0852275,**BELUR** 08177 222100 **FEDBLR0GL**0855190, 860834,860596, 868911,1019296,1038065 **BOMMANAHALLI** 080 41500417 **FEDBMH0GL**0850931, 861095, **CHANNAPATNA** 080 27256046**FEDCHA0GL**0858598,1045132,1048702 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 08176252477 **FEDCYP0GL**0844770,849369,849803,853721,857163,859454,865075,865547,86736 7,1001287,1009421,1018098,1023976,1025483,1034703,1036947,1042548,1042293, 1044245, 44934 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 08176 252477 **FEDCKM0GL**0867003 **DAVANGERE** 0819-2252111 **FEDDAV0GL**0846325 869079,1021714,**DHARWAD** 0836 -2970229 **FEDdha0GL**1012989,1018218 **H D KOTE** 08228-297033 **FEDHDK0GL**0965928,1048212 **HANSUR** 08222 250114 **FEDHNS0GL**0933666, 949691, 0965306, 0969761, 0971488,1014771 **HARIHAR** 08192-242865 **FEDHRH0GL**0856112,1003048**HASSAN MARKET** 08172 235324 **FEDHSM0GL**0856440, 0856443, 866097, 933284, 0934329,0942960,1024387 **HAVERI** 8375232810 **FEDHVR0GL**0846986,**852329,** 852936,858362,861230, 863178, 864036,865344, 867315,935894,945144,964656, 967795,1018457, 1033988, 1037610, 1039097 **HOSA ROAD** 80257444811 **FEDHSR0GL**0843249, 866251, 866352,1036892,1036254 **JEEVAN BHEEMA NAGAR** 080 41900283 **FEDJBN0GL**0844196,0849843 **K R NAGAR** 08223 262045 **FEDKRN0GL**0851308, 851094,857680,1001750,1021715,1042309 **K R PETE** 08230-262886 **FEDKRE0GL**0866089,1015867,1020316,1024958,1050475 **K R PURAM** 080 25610669**FEDKRP0GL**0843767, 843769, 856308, 865661, 971572, 1023237, 1045046 **K R ROAD** 08192272223 **FEDKRR0GL**0854966 **KAMMANAHALLI** 080 40926572 **FEDKMN0GL**0851127,858954,858957,0862832,0865616 **KOPIKAR ROAD** 83623 62444 **FEDKKR0GL**0862140,0967431 **MANDIMOHALLA** 8214264270 **FEDMDM0GL**0856209 863737,1017061,1020360 **MANDYA** 08232 239585 **FEDMND0GL**1040806, 1047888 **NANJANGODE** 08221 223326 **FEDNJG0GL**0844651 **PERIAPATNA** 08223-297589 **FEDPER0GL**0862095 **RAMANAGARA** 080 2727562 **FEDRMN0GL**0848522,0863933,1015673,1018785 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 8214253754 **FEDRSC0GL**1005325,1029728,1033179 **RANEBENNUR** 08373 - 297397 **FEDRAN0GL**0842787,0846720,0850896,0864258 **SHIMOGA** 081 23115765 **FEDSMG0GL**0850532,860696,865201,866684,0868098,1007712 **SULTHANPLYA** 080 41636281 **FEDSTP0GL**0860311,968915, 0970453

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Dated : 21-09-2020 For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Place : Bangalore Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

EDITORIAL

"Every experience you have ever had has been shaped by your mind. If you are perpetually angry, depressed, confused, and unloving, or your attention is elsewhere, it won't matter how successful you become—you won't enjoy any of it"

Sam Harris

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RS APPROVAL TO FARM BILLS BY VOICE VOTE BAD FOR DEMOCRACY

Three farm sector reform legislations the Centre steamrolled in Parliament led to political convulsions, as NDA ally Shiromani Akali Dal pulled out of the Modi ministry and the Rajya Sabha witnessed shocking voice voting amid ruckus. With the Chair disallowing division—the actual counting of votes—the opposition called it a murder of democracy. For, the strength of the treasury benches in the Rajya Sabha is rather wobbly unlike their brute majority in the Lok Sabha. Also, the critical line taken by parties that have normally voted in favour of the NDA in the Rajya Sabha, like the AIADMK and the BJD, suggested possible erosion in support if those parties walk the talk. Yet, the Chair refused to order division citing the bedlam, which began after he extended the day's sitting to let the Bills pass without evolving a consensus on doing so. The situation turned ugly when motions to refer the Bills to a select committee were rejected by voice vote and demands for division disallowed, as the Chair said it could be done only if all members return to their seats. Unruly members heckling him and some of them tearing up official papers added to the day's nastiness. In the end, the Chair got the ayes to let two Bills sail through, but the exercise didn't carry the conviction one would get from actual voting on such important legislations meant to revolutionise agronomics and impact the future of farmers. While the unruly behaviour of members cannot be condoned, neither can sidestepping division by accepted. The Chair could have easily adjourned the House for the day and taken up the matter on Monday. His tearing hurry to wrap up the day's business was of the banana republic kind and not the participative democracy India has been proud of.

The three Bills replace ordinances issued in May—at the height of the pandemic—to increase farmers' revenue by reducing middlemen, allowing contract farming and ending arbitrariness in the management of essential supplies. Ironically, the sudden ban on onion export last week, perhaps to eliminate the tuber's influence on the big Bihar elections in November, was just the kind of arbitrariness the legislative initiative sought to purge.

UNNECESSARY LEGAL STORM IN TAMIL NADU

In the week before NEET was conducted, four youngsters in Tamil Nadu died by suicide, allegedly due to fear of how they would perform in the test. The exam has become an emotive issue related to social justice in the state from the very beginning. A statement issued by an actor in this context, however, set off an unexpected—and unnecessary—legal storm that concluded on Friday in a 29-page order written by the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

"The court which, fearing for its life due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is hearing cases via video conferencing, orders students to fearlessly face the exams," the actor wrote. This is a reference to the Supreme Court dismissing pleas to defer the exams and then dismissing a review petition on the same issue. Aggrieved, a Madras HC judge urged the Chief Justice to initiate suo motu criminal contempt proceedings against the actor. A section of advocates too backed the call for contempt proceedings while several others—and six former HC judges—argued that the matter should be dropped.

In the wake of the Prashant Bhushan case, the court's decision on the matter was closely watched. "...it is not the job of a constitutional Court to use a sledgehammer for avoidance of something which can be perceived to be not capable of even being propped up as a contempt, much less debated to the level of a criminal contempt," the court finally acknowledged in its order. Yet, despite the actor's comment being a factual reference to the Supreme Court, the HC in its mediation on free speech, criticism and justice, still declared it as "absolutely unnecessary or even unwarranted, for being ignorant of the manner in which the entire judiciary of this state has served the interest of its citizens during this pandemic..."

That the court decided against initiating contempt proceedings is a relief to those who cherish free speech and democratic values. However, the entire affair has also created unease given how so often the process can itself become a punishment. Rather than displaying such sensitivity to stray comments, it is imperative that the higher judiciary be more sensitive to the great power it represents and wields.

While the government and the RBI have been focusing on growth and inflation respectively, there has been no godfather for unemployment

A TALE OF 3Gs: OF GOD, GOALS AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

TAPAS RANJAN

TULSI JAYAKUMAR

Professor of Economics & Chairperson of Family Managed Business at Bhavans SPJIMR, Mumbai

The new number that is on everybody's lips in September is 23 (actually 23.9)%—the dramatic drop in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), for the April-June quarter of 2020-2021. Given that consumption had dropped owing to the lockdown, firms were not investing in fixed assets such as plants, machinery, etc., and global markets were relatively inaccessible due to the pandemic, the numbers should have come as no surprise. The only sector that grew was agriculture, at 3.4%.

Of God ... and Goals:

In a country where stoic faith in Karma can help in overcoming the biggest of setbacks, it is easy to pass off the decline in GDP as an 'Act of God'. However, much as we would like to console ourselves, 'God' had nothing to do with this 'Act' of decline. In fact, even before the pandemic hit our shores, India was at serious risk of going back to the 3% growth rate that had defined it for much of the period up to the 1990s, and which has been pejoratively termed the 'Hindu growth rate'. India's growth rate had continuously declined from 2016-17 and had halved to 4.2% in 2019-20. More importantly, the Gross Value Added—a measure of what our sectors really produced—had declined to 3.9% over the same period. Despite the call for 'Make in India' earlier and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' later, industry grew at a mere 0.8% in 2019-2020, with the manufacturing sector growing at 0%.

To put matters in perspective, in 2006-07, when India grew at 9.6%, the average growth rate of industry was 12.9%, while manufacturing grew at 14.3%. Throughout 2013-14 to 2018-19, growth rates of industry and manufacturing, though they had almost halved, were still at 7.5% and 7.8% respectively.

Output growth, by itself, is less important than growth in employment. India has exhibited a phenomenon of jobless growth in the past, with growth in jobs not being commensurate with a growth in output. What is more important, however, is the impact of a growth (or fall) in output across various sectors, especially manufacturing and industry, on employment. What if output grew by 1%? How much of such growth would translate into greater jobs? There are sectoral differences in the ability to create employment.

It has been found that the agricultural sector does not contribute to job growth, even if output within the sector grows. In fact, a 1% growth reduces jobs in agriculture by 0.08% and has to do with the substitution of labour by capital and automation to raise agricultural growth. The construction sector presents a picture of a sector where almost all growth gets translated into a growth into employment. It is also one that is more labour intensive than, say, sectors like financial services, real estate and professional services. The manufacturing sector is far less useful in this regard, with a 1% increase in output leading to only a 0.4% increase in jobs, while sectors like electricity, gas and water supply, utility services and mining also share agriculture's inability to create jobs despite increase in output.

> While we have headline measures for GDP growth and inflation that are tracked regularly and used for policy interventions, there has been none for unemployment. A starting point would be to announce a headline unemployment measure and a clear goal for unemployment reduction that the government would seek to achieve

It appears then that the sectors that have been growing have very little ability to add to employment.

The third goal is that of maintaining inflation rates through an inflationary targeting monetary policy that India adopted in 2016. With the headline Consumer Price Index breaching the psychological 6% mark, even as the divergence between the wholesale and consumer prices has grown (see my column published in this newspaper on August 19), this policy is now being questioned. There seems to be evidence that such targeting may have been at the cost of growth. Which then brings us to the third G.

Of Government Policy:

Which of these goals should take precedence as regards government policy? While the government and the RBI have been focusing on growth and inflation respectively, there has been no 'godfather' for unemployment. Thus, while we have headline measures for GDP growth and inflation that are tracked regularly and used for policy interventions, there has been no such attempt to announce a headline measure of unemployment for policy purposes. A starting point would be to announce a headline unemployment measure and a clear goal for unemployment reduction that the government would seek to achieve.

Such unemployment reduction then should follow a focused approach. With fiscal stress and limited resources at its disposal, policy interventions should focus firstly on those sectors that can yield the greatest impact. A recent article published in another platform indicated the possibility of a K-shaped recovery post-pandemic, with the rich becoming richer and the poor poorer. A bailout of the financial sector, while politically imperative, may accentuate the K-shaped growth, by cushioning the rich, while at the same time leaving the construction sector, with its higher employment potential, devoid of funds.

Finally, the policy of inflation targeting may be revisited. The goal may be to ensure price stability, without fixing it within a range of 4-6% as currently practised.

It is time we changed our goals to reflect more an 'act of focused government policy' than an 'act of God'.

(tulsi.jayakumar@spjimr.org)

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES & VACCINES: LESSONS FROM POLIO CAMPAIGN

NAYANA JAYARAJAN

Vienna-based former journalist who now works on interreligious conflict resolution

Recently, the World Health Organization declared the African continent free of wild poliovirus; Pakistan and Afghanistan are now the only two countries where wild polio is still endemic (although cases of vaccine-derived polio are on the rise worldwide, primarily due to falling rates of immunisation in children under five.)

This is a cheering development, especially at a time when the world is struggling to contain another disease with global reach and dire consequences, Covid-19. It's also a timely reminder of why we need international organisations like the WHO, which can mobilise experts, civil society and volunteers nationally, regionally and globally, and which can ensure that scientific and medical breakthroughs, research and lessons learned can be transmitted between countries and communities.

It is also a reminder that, as we tackle Covid-19 and prepare for other pandemics that scientists assure us are in the making, we need to involve religious leaders and their institutions early and often in our efforts. Failure to do so has dire implications. In 2015, the WHO issued a stark warning of rising poliomyelitis cases in Somalia, Iraq and Syria. In each of those countries, the virus had previously been eradicated, and was reintroduced from countries where it was still endemic.

The role of religion in containing polio has been a complicated one. On the one hand, vaccine resistance by some religious institutions has been a recurrent challenge for scientists working to contain the disease. In one of the best-known examples, resistance to the vaccine by religious leaders and politicians in parts of northern Nigeria in 2003 led to a resurgence of the disease, which then took years to roll back. This resistance was occasioned by rumours that the vaccines had been deliberately contaminated with anti-fertility drugs and were harming children.

In many countries (including Pakistan, Afghanistan, the US and the Democratic Republic of Congo), religious leaders have often been conduits for misinformation about the potential impacts of vaccines, and have advised their communities and followers to avoid vaccinating their children.

At the same time, however, religious leaders and their communities in many countries have been at the forefront of the anti-polio movement: In the Philippines, religious leaders joined civil society organisations and volunteers to organise vaccination drives, leading to thousands of children being protected from disease. In India, too, religious communities were an integral part of the coalition that eradicated polio from the country, which had previously been one of the worst affected. In Afghanistan, UNICEF works together with interfaith activists and faith leaders to help them communicate effectively with their communities about the virus. When religious communities, especially women, are involved in vaccine drives, success rates increase.

One factor that complicates the relationship between religious institutions and public health initiatives, specifically vaccination drives, is the fact that regions in conflict are also typically the most underserved by public services and tend to be more deprived, which makes reaching those communities even more challenging. In areas where the manipulation of religion is a factor in conflict, for example in areas of Nigeria where Boko Haram is active, in Angola, Afghanistan and others, vaccination drives and other externally driven public health measures can quickly be weaponised to create further mistrust and anti-state paranoia in populations. In 2013, Boko Haram militants murdered nine young women working on polio vaccination programmes in northern Nigeria.

> The role of religion in containing polio has been a complicated one. On the one hand, vaccine resistance by some religious institutions has been a recurrent challenge for scientists working to contain the disease. ...At the same time, however, religious leaders and their communities in many countries—including India—have been at the forefront of the anti-polio movement

Ownership and trust are often mutually reinforcing: In India, the body responsible for community mobilisation for polio eradication, the Social Mobilization Network, quickly realised that in order to reach poorer communities, the participation of religious leaders was essential. They worked to include religious organisations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the vaccination programmes, which helped build a sense of trust and ownership in those communities. This was linked to greater rates of community adoption. Religious leaders are seen as cultural and moral authorities, whose words carry great weight with families considering vaccination. Up-to-the-moment scientific information and exchanges between medical professionals and religious leaders are key to ensuring that they are able to transmit accurate information to their followers.

Interreligious action can help build community trust: In many cases, communities felt singled out or unfairly targeted by vaccination drives and other scientific studies, a fear that is not, unfortunately, entirely unfounded. In Pakistan, a CIA-funded fake vaccination drive had the unfortunate effect of leading to a marked rise in vaccine resistance. Ensuring visible and sustained interreligious cooperation around public health can help remove this fear.

As health professionals and governments around the world battle to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, stories are emerging of infection clusters around religious gatherings, for example in South Korea, Austria, India and other places. This has the knock-on effect of increasing hate speech and stigmatisation of religious communities, which then contributes to these communities' reluctance to engage with state and official actors, building a cycle of mistrust and division. This welcome news from the WHO is a timely reminder that we need to break this cycle, that it takes continuous and intensive effort from all sides, but that it can be done.

(nayana.jayarajan@kaiciid.org)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Freedom from mandis

This is with reference to *Anti-farmer policies of pro-farmer politics* (Sep 20). What is actually behind the protests against the new farm Bills? A huge majority of India's farmers own less than five acres of land. The new Bills gives these farmers the freedom to bargain for better prices and be open to options rather than being tied down by the mandi system.

B Kailash Shankar, T'puram

Hypocrisy of Cong

By dismantling the mandi system, the Centre aims to free farmers from the clutches of middlemen. The opposition is making an unnecessary hue and cry about the issue. Even the Congress, in its 2019 election manifesto, had promised to get rid of the system.

Ram Saran Singh, Bengaluru

Safe haven for terror?

That Kerala appears to have turned a safe haven for terror groups is shocking. The privileges enjoyed by migrants in the state are being misused by terror outfits. Forming special anti-terror police squads in the state is the need of the hour.

P Jayaprakash, Ottapalam

Can't afford another 26/11

The National Investigation Agency's arrest of nine people associated with an Al Qaeda module that planned terror strikes in Delhi points to the existence of trouble-makers well inside India. Investigators must unravel the menace of local support that facilitates the execution of such disruptive strikes. India cannot afford another 26/11.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Jihadi elements in Kerala

All the three held by the NIA from Kerala on charges of Al Qaeda links have been working as migrant labour. The arrest has given credence to the fact that Kerala has become one of the few states having jihadi elements. Last year, around 100 Malayalis were said to have joined ISIS from Kerala.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Loyalists not helping GOP

This is with reference to *'Loyalists' injurious to health* (Sep 20). The article clearly tells us that the intention of the 'Brave 23' was not to break the Congress, but to remind the high command of the need for reform. Despite the earnestness displayed by the genuine dissenters, the top echelons took it as rebellion. These loyalists will dig the grave of the GOP.

Ravi Mannethu, Pullad

Need democracy within

The article shows the dire state of the Congress. Rahul Gandhi and his coterie should ensure democracy in their party. They should save it from annihilation before giving sermons about how the present dispensation seems to be destroying the spirit of democracy.

O P Swaminathan, Bengaluru

Regaining old stature

It is unfortunate that a national party like the Congress has not elected a full-time president yet. A loss of faith in the eyes of the people is why the party that ruled the country for a long period could not even become the official opposition in Parliament. Unless internal reforms suggested by some senior leaders are implemented, the party is not going to regain its old power and stature.

Methil Somasundaram, Padur

A relief to cricket lovers

The Chennai Super Kings started their 2020 IPL journey with a win against the Mumbai Indians. Excellent catches by South African cricketer Faf du Plessis turned the match in CSK's favour. Ambati Rayudu and du Plessis's 100-run partnership also paved the way for the win. It is a great relief to cricket lovers that IPL matches are being held even during the Covid period.

Angarakarao V, Vizianagaram

Defeating clay court king

Kudos to Argentine tennis player Diego Schwartzman for his stunning win against clay court king Rafael Nadal in the Italian Open. This defeat, on a clay court no less, is a major setback for Nadal, who is aiming for his 13th title in the French Open commencing next week.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

JPNadda @JPNadda
Congress party never undertook any reforms for empowerment of farmers. It neither had the time nor the will to help farmers.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Democracy is ashamed of the manner in which the government took out death orders against farmers in the form of the Agricultural Bill in the RS today.

Nirmala Sitharaman @nsitharaman
Parliament has cleared bills to reform agriculture sector. Farmers are now free to choose where and at what price they would sell their products.

Microphones muted?

Amidst the uproar in the Rajya Sabha, the telecast of RSTV was muted. A few of the Opposition members also alleged that their microphones were turned off so that they could not speak.

Congress MP Ahmed Patel talks to the media at Vijay Chowk | PARVEEN NEGI

RS deputy chairman faces no-confidence motion

Govt may take action against opposition MPs for bedlam in House

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

PIQUED at not being allowed to seek voting on two farm bills, 12 opposition parties on Sunday moved a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

On the other hand, the BJP may also move a resolution seeking action against some of the MPs for their unruly behaviour in the House. Several Union ministers reached the residence of Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to discuss the pandemonium created by the opposition MPs.

The Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the DMK, the Samajwadi Party, the NCP, the RJD, the CPI (M), the CPI, the AAP, the Muslim League, the JD(S) and the NCP have signed the resolution expressing no-confidence in Harivansh. "We move this no-confidence motion against the deputy chairman for he has violated all canons of law, precedence, parliamentary practice and fair play," reads the motion.

It says Harivansh during the point of order to be raised, did not allow many members opposing the "anti-farmer bill" to even speak, purported to extend the session beyond 1pm on September 20. "As per the convention of parliament, the House functions with the consensus of all political parties. This was specifically pointed out by Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad. The deputy chairman did not even attempt to generate consensus in this regard and did not allow RS members sitting LS to even participate."

The opposition wrote that the deputy chairman attempted to have the Bills passed in haste and without application of mind, circumvented all demands for proper voting by division. Harivansh was accused of not allowing the opposition to seek voting on the Bills and pf passing them by voice vote amidst din. "The dictatorial attitude of the Chair in not wanting to get a sense of the House, which is the convention to extend the session beyond the scheduled 1 pm, led to bedlam & chaos. The anti-farmer Bills were passed in the din without voting. Why the tearing urgency? On whose orders?" tweeted Jairam Ramesh, Congress.

The Centre is mulling action against MPs seen tearing copies of bills, damaging microphone and climbing on tables. "Opposition has showed height of intolerance today. They think of themselves as baadshah (king). We condemn the unruly behaviour of the opposition and we will never budge to such threats," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi said outside Parliament.

'Opposition hurt decorum of Parliament'

NEW DELHI: The government condemned the ruckus in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh saying that such an incident has no parallel in the history of both the Houses of Parliament.

"Whole nation has seen what has happened in the Rajya Sabha. The kind of attack launched on the Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who is an erudite and reputed person, is highly condemnable," said Singh, while addressing a presser in the evening on Sunday.

Singh was accompanied by five more Cabinet ministers.

"In the Parliamentary democracy, conventions are important, and if they are broken, then they leave scar on the functioning of the Parliament. I strongly condemn the incident. It has hurt the Parliamentary decorum and prestige. There are attempts to emotionally misguide the farmers on the agriculture bills passed by the Parliament," said Singh. *ENS*

Passage of the bills reflects PM's unwavering resolve towards the overall development of our farmers. This is the beginning of unprecedented era in agriculture sector — Amit Shah, Home Minister

They broke every rule in Parliament. It was a historic day. In the worst sense of the word. They cut RSTV feed so the country couldn't see, censored RSTV. We have evidence —Derek O'Brien, TMC

Ill-conceived, ill-timed and we will not sign on death warrants of farmers. Slowly, government will come out of this and then big corporate houses will enter market —Partap Singh Bajwa , Cong

Oppn should stop doing politics and misleading farmers. Contract farming already exist in many states including Punjab, Haryana and we are not taking away land of farmers. —Bhupender Yadav, BJP

PUNJAB FARMERS BURN EFFIGIES OF PM; PARTIES UNITED IN PROTEST

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

FARMERS at several places in Punjab on Sunday burnt copies of farm bills and effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the bills related to the agriculture sector will destroy their livelihood. They also blocked Ambala-Roorkee national highway.

The Punjab Youth Congress also started a "tractor rally" from Punjab to Delhi against the three farm bills.

At many places, including Ludhiana, Ferozepur, Sangrur and Barnala, the protesters raised slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Punjab Youth Congress chief Barinder Singh Dhillon said this is the beginning of the fight for the rights of farmers.

They also released black balloons in the air as a mark of protest against the farm bills.

Talking in similar tone, Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar said, "After seeing the farmers' anger, Sukhbir Singh Badal had to change his stand on the farm bills issue. Farmers have broken his arrogance.

Independent MLA from Mehem Balraj Kundu, JJP's MLA Jogi Ram Sihag also joined the protestors. The JJP is in alliance with BJP in Haryana.

Haryana Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) president Gurnam Singh Charuni led the protest in Yamunanagar and said, "I want to assure the farmers that the agitation will continue till the Central government withdraws these bills."

Savidhan Bachao Manch in Mansa appealed people to boycott and not allow any BJP leader to enter in any village or town in the state. "As BJP is taking anti-people decisions, people should make sure that no program of the party is allowed in any village or town in the state," said Gurlabh Singh Mahal of Savidhan Bachao Manch which was constituted to protest against Centre's NRC and they had staged an indefinite protest in Mansa at that time.

Meanwhile, due to the protest in neighbouring states, the Delhi Police had deployed its personnel at border areas.

Farmers' organisations protest against the Centre in Patiala on Sunday | PTI

Singers lend support: '*Kisan hai the Hindustan hai*'

The Punjabi singers and actors have come in support of the farmers. While legendry Punjabi singer Gurdas Mann last night took to the social media to show his support, "Kisan hai the Hindustan hai. Sarbat Da bhala hovey," actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh tweeted, "Kisan Bachao, Desh Bachao. Kisan Virodhi Bill Da Asi Sarey Virod Karde Haan."

'Unconstitutional farm laws, will take BJP to court'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday said his government would take the BJP and its allies, including the Akalis, to court over the new 'unconstitutional, undemocratic and anti-farmer' laws of the central government.

He said he would fight till his last breath to protect the farmers' interests in the state.

"We will move the court and fight the draconian legislations as soon as they get the presidential nod and become the law of the land," he said.

Singh expressed shock at the way the BJP-led Union government 'brute-forced' the agriculture Bills through the Rajya Sabha.

The CM questioned the rationale behind putting the 'controversial and vicious' Bills, which, he said, was a 'blatant encroachment' of the state's powers and control of the agriculture sector, to voice vote, despite strong reservations by the Opposition and inadequate numbers in the House.

PM hails passage of Farm Bills, asserts it will ensure complete transformation of agriculture

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed the Parliamentary nod to the agrarian reform bills as a watershed moment in the history of Indian agriculture. He reiterated that the system of minimum support prices (MSP) will remain, and the public procurement will continue.

"Congratulations to our hardworking farmers on the passage of key bills in Parliament, which will ensure a complete transformation of the agriculture sector as well as empower crores of farmers. We are here to serve our farmers. We will do everything possible to support them and ensure a better life for their coming generations," PM stated in a series of tweets after the Rajya Sabha passed the legislations by voice vote amid ruckus.

The Prime Minister also stated that for decades the Indian farmer was bound by various constraints and bullied by middlemen, while the bills passed by Parliament would liberate the farmers from such adversities. "These bills will add impetus to the efforts to double income of farmers and ensure greater prosperity for them," he tweeted. He added that the agriculture sector is in desperate need of latest technology, and the farmers will now have easier access to futuristic technology that will boost production and yield better results.

BJP chief J P Nadda, while hailing the passage of the bills, said that the farmers have been freed from the injustice that has been continued for the last 70 years. "Those who are against the bill are anti-farmers. Instead of being part of the process, Opposition tried to obstruct the liberation of farmers. The BJP condemns their act," said Nadda.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Progressive International calls for global alliance to bail out down-trodden

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PROGRESSIVE International on Sunday concluded its first ever two-day summit which brought together the organisation's council from around 70 organisations from over 40 countries to plan collective actions.

The council's members include activist **Aruna Roy**, Rafael Correa, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Yanis Varoufakis, Arundhati Roy, Wang Hui, Katrin Jakobsdottir, Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor, Achille Mbembe, Carola Rackete, John McDonnell, Vijay Prashad, Vanessa Nakate, Alicia Castro.

Democratically elected governments go authoritarian and alienate people by centralising power. ...The governments come out with false arguments and information to promote hate

Aruna Roy, activist

Speaking at a virtual press conference after the summit, Roy said that discussions in the summit revolved around ecological, democratic and authoritarian regimes. "Democratically elected governments go authoritarian and alienate people by centralising power. There is xenophobia and hate in large amounts and the governments come out with false arguments and information to promote hate. Hence, there is a need for a global alliance to stand with the hungry, poor and marginalized people of the world," she said.

The summit, according to Roy, also discussed how there is shrinking space for freedom of expression and protest and also how many peaceful dissenters are in jail. "We must rally around political prisoners. We at Progressive International have a commitment to support political prisoners.

Mexican actor and activist Gael Garcia Bernal said, "This experiment invites us to eradicate the sense of non-connection by authoritarian regimes. Such regimes are using the pandemic as an excuse to close the doors and hence we need to talk about it globally," he said.

Srecko Horvat, renowned Croatian philosopher said that the world today is faced with the three horsemen of apocalypse. The three Es - expansion, exploitation and extraction, Horvat said, is what we face today. "The expansion of capitalism, the exploitation of indigenous people, women and people of colour, and the extraction of value from natural resources is leading us to the E - extinction. Progressive International is to unite and mobilise resources against this on a planetary scale. Like how capitalism and fascism is international, we need to be trans-national as well," he said.

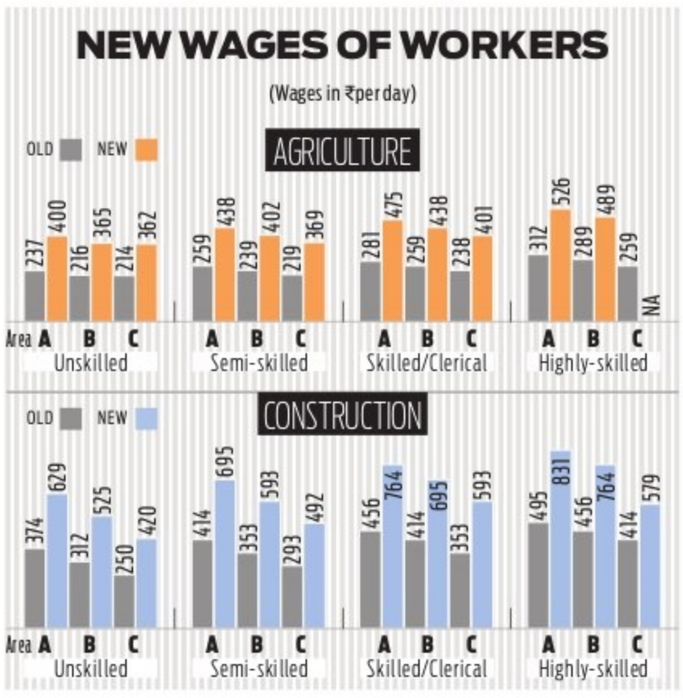
Human rights activist from Guatemala Renata Avlia said, "People have done it in the past but we are doing it at a time when the youth feels that there is no future for them. We hope to give them a possibility of a utopia while not hiding the problems," she said and added that the next summit is likely to be held in Argentina.

EXPRESS READ

'FTs only in Assam'

New Delhi: As many as 83,008 cases of doubtful voters is pending in Foreigners Tribunals in Assam while 86,756 others were declared as foreigners in last five years, the Centre said. It added FTs are functioning currently only in Assam.

Central government revises minimum wages for casual workers


NEW WAGES OF WORKERS
(Wages in ₹per day)
AGRICULTURE
OLD NEW
237 400 216 365 214 362
259 438 239 402 219 369
281 475 259 438 238 401
312 526 289 489 259 NA
Area A B C A B C A B C A B C
Unskilled Semi-skilled Skilled/Clerical Highly-skilled
CONSTRUCTION
OLD NEW
374 629 312 525 250 420
414 695 353 593 293 492
456 764 414 695 353 593
495 831 456 764 414 579
Area A B C A B C A B C A B C
Unskilled Semi-skilled Skilled/Clerical Highly-skilled

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

THE Centre said that it had revised minimum rate of wages for employees engaged in scheduled employment in the central sphere.

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the government said that the percentage distribution of casual workers as per the periodic labour force survey showed 29.3 per cent workers in rural areas and 10.7 per cent in urban areas.

"Under Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the enforcement is secured at two levels. In the Central Sphere, the enforcement is secured through the inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) and the compliance in the State Sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery," the government said in its reply and added that the DA given to these workers was revised according to the consumer price index and was last revised on April 1.

According to the revised rates, casual workers in agriculture would earn ₹333 per day as against the ₹237 per day in Area A, ₹303 as against the ₹216 in Area B and ₹300 as against the ₹214 in Area C.

While urban agglomerations in cities like Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, etc fall under Area A, cities like Ajmer Agra, Hubli-Dharwad, etc fall in Area B while the remaining places are placed under Area C.

Similar raises have been given to workers engaged in sweeping and cleaning, watch and ward, loading and unloading, construction and non-coal mines. In what seemed to be a clarification for the Centre's remarks that it had not complied data of migrant deaths, Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Gangwar on Wednesday said that the government has taken number of unprecedented steps for the welfare of workers during the pandemic.

Centre presents Bill to make Aadhaar must for NGOs for receiving donations from abroad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Lok Sabha on Sunday witnessed introduction of a Bill that seeks to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Under this providing the Aadhar numbers of the office-bearers of any NGO will be mandatory for registration and public servants will be barred from receiving funds from abroad.

The Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020, introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, also proposes to enable the Centre to allow an NGO or association to surrender its FCRA certificate.

Introducing the bill, Rai said, "There would be no discrimination. The permission which was given earlier to religious institutions for foreign contributions under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 will continue. But these institutions should not deviate from their objective and not be a threat to the country's security."

The draft bill proposes that not more than 20 per cent of the total foreign funds received could be spent on administrative expenses. Presently, the limit is 50 per cent.

Congress' Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury claimed that Bill puts unnecessary powers in hands of Central governemnt to suppress opposition.

Our 'code of ethics' should be made part of rules: NBA to SC

NEW DELHI: THE News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has urged the Supreme Court to officially give it a recognition so as to make all news channels, members or otherwise, duty bound to follow its directives and be liable to penalties.

Submitting its affidavit a day ahead of the hearing in the wake of the controversy surrounding a show by Sudarshan TV, the NBA has recommended ways in which the self-regulatory mechanism of NBSA can be strengthened. NBSA is currently headed by retired Supreme Court judge AK Sikri. A bench, headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud, had on Friday sought suggestions from the NBA.

In its affidavit, the NBA has pleaded that its code of ethics should be given a statutory recognition by making it a part of the Programme Code under the Cable TV Rules so that these codes become binding on all the news channels. *ENS*

SCHOOLS REOPEN

Schools will reopen in four of the seven Northeast states from Monday with Covid SOPs in place. In all these states such as Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram, informal classes will be taken for students from 9-12 but attendance is voluntary

4 SKELETONS FOUND NEAR KEDARNATH

Ahmedabad	34	27	Mumbai	30	25
Bhopal	32	24	Panaji	28	23
Jaipur	39	28	Patna	34	26
Amritsar	36	25	Lucknow	37	27
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	32	25
Kolkata	33	28	Imphal	31	21
Srinagar	31	26	Chandigarh	37	25

Funds for minorities lying idle in UP

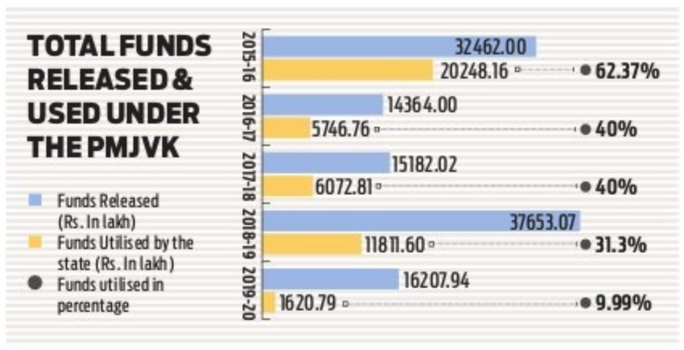
Utilisation of funds under scheme for minority welfare has declined sharply in last 5 years

SANA SHAKIL @New Delhi

UTTAR Pradesh government has not used most of the funds received from the Centre for development of minorities. According to government data, the Yogi Adityanath government utilised just about 10 per cent of over ₹162 crore released under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme in 2019-2020.

Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi shared the figures in the Lok Sabha while responding to questions posed by BSP leader Danish Ali on the issue of funds allocation for welfare of minorities in Uttar Pradesh.

The figures also revealed that the fund utilisation has declined sharply between 2015 and 2019 from about ₹202 crore to about ₹16.20 crore. The utilisation of funds released under PMJVK has been declining consistently over the last five years.



In 2015, the Centre released over ₹324 crore but the state government used only about ₹202 crore that year. In 2016, the amount released was over ₹143 crore and the state government used around ₹57 crore. In 2017, ₹151.82 crore were released and ₹60.72 crore were utilised. 2018 saw the highest amount being released with ₹376.53 crore and utilisation was ₹118.11 crore.

During 2020-21, an amount of ₹45.52 crore has been released to the state of Uttar Pradesh as on August 31, the minister said.

Leaders of minority communities alleged bias of the state government against a section of the society. Kamal Farooqui, former chairperson of the Delhi Minorities Commission, said that Yogi Adityanath has forgotten that he is not just a politician but also the state chief minister and that he has responsibilities towards everyone in the state. "As the chief minister, he is not supposed to be biased against one section of the society. But his handling of various issues have shown his bias," he said.

Farooqui, who is also part of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, added that UP has seen all kinds of human rights violations. "Yogi Adityanath's actions have been communal. His actions and this data shows that he is not capable of handling the government in an unbiased way," Farooqui said.

In Parliament, Naqvi said that the ministry is implementing various schemes/programmes in the country for welfare and development of six centrally notified minorities.

Naqvi said that funds through the PMJVK had been utilised for building additional classrooms, anganwadi centres, hospitals, sanitation and potable water projects. He added that during the last five years, the government's total expenditure for implementation of PMJVK in the country was ₹6255.53 crore.

CALL OF DUTY

DELHI POLICE MUST SHOW SPINE AGAINST THIER POLITICAL BOSSES: RIBEIRO

*RETIRED IPS officer **Julio Ribeiro** has serious questions over Delhi Police's probe in the riots cases and its charge sheet. The former supercop said the police have deliberately framed students and activists to please their political bosses in the Centre. Ribeiro spoke with **Sudhir Suryawanshi** about the probe, the Sushant Singh Rajput case and other topical issues.*

TAPAS RANJAN

Why do you doubt the riots probe by Delhi Police?

Delhi Police has filed the 17,500-page charge sheet naming students, research scholars and social activists. Many of them have been charged under the UAPA, generally applied against terrorists. Delhi Police have used it against students and scholars who disagree with the BJP government's policies. It raises suspicion over their intention. These people were framed on unconvincing charges. Therefore, I wrote a letter asking the Delhi Police not to fall in the trap of the political bosses and perform their duty as per the law with sincerity.

What process has to be followed while filing charge sheet in such cases?

In post-riot situations, one FIR is generally filed by calling all accused and respondents. Police have to hear out both sides. The charge sheet should not be one-sided or target a certain community.

What could be the intention in framing these charges?

Apart from registering cases against people from the minority community, police also named Sitaram Yechury, Yogendra Yadav, Jayati Ghosh and Apoorvanand in the supplementary charge sheet. These activists were allegedly accused of "provoking and mobilising" anti-CAA protesters. Now, confusion has been created that the cases against them will not be serious and they will not be arrested or held guilty and so on. I think these are attempts and tactics to hound these people, so that no one stands against the government in the long run. They not only want to scare them but also warn others who support and defend the voices of dissent. The BJP does not like 'dissent', particularly Modi-Shah duo.

But 26 former IPS officers have extended their support to the Delhi Police.

Everyone must understand that I always speak my mind whether BJP is in power or Congress. I believe in the land of the law and IPC procedures. I am not an agent of any political party but the agent of truth and justice. When I was the Punjab Police chief, the then Union Home Minister Buta Singh asked me to arrest certain people allegedly linked to the Khalistan movement. I refused to follow his order blindly saying, 'it is not my job to arrest someone as per your instructions without any proof'.

When Vilasrao Deshmukh was Maharashtra Home Minister, he asked me to release a certain gangster. But I refused to do so. I remained honest with my uniform and principles. I expect the same from Delhi Police.

What's the difference between Hinduism and Hindutva of BJP-RSS?

Frankly, I do not understand the difference between Hinduism and Hindutva at all. But, BJP is using it to consolidate the majority and marginalise the minorities. No religion propagates such kinds of persecutions. Most of my bosses were Hindus, but I never got this kind of feeling. PM Modi has taken several good initiatives. However, now they are focusing more on divergent tactics, so the people don't raise questions about the failing economy, rising unemployment, pandemic, etc.

What's your view about the Sushant Singh Rajput case?

It was systematically blown up to target the Maha Vikas Aghadi and the Uddhav Thackeray government. The Centre has engaged multiple agencies to ascertain whether Sushant died by natural causes or suicide. ED was asked to probe allegations that Rhea Chakraborty had siphoned off Rs 16 crore from him. After a month, neither CBI nor ED is able to shown any substantial proof or establish any wrongdoing. Now, NCB has arrested Rhea on charges of drug supply. The NCB probe will continue until the Bihar election. The BJP's goal has changed from toppling the MVA to winning the polls in Bihar.

HOTEL DEAL

Puri challenges court order on sale of Laxmi Vilas Palace

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

JYOTSNA Suri, the MD of Bharat Hotels Ltd, has challenged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court ordering criminal cases to be registered against the Puri, former Union Disinvestment Minister Arun Shourie, former Disinvestment Secretary Pradeep Baijal, and two others people for alleged corruption in the disinvestment of the famous Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel in Udaipur in 2002.

The CBI court had held that the sale of the government-run hotel by the NDA government in 2002 should be reopened as the property valued at over ₹252 crore was sold for a mere ₹7.5 crore to the private group and implied a huge loss to the exchequer.

Interestingly, former Union Minister of State for Law in the Modi government and BJP MP, PP Chaudhary has agreed to be the senior lawyer representing Suri in the Rajasthan High Court which has fixed September 22 for a hearing on the case.

Shourie, the former Disinvestment Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, is also reportedly getting ready to challenge the CBI court verdict in the high court.

The CBI Court had held that in its investigation, the probe agency had valued the Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel in Udaipur at ₹252 crore and its sale for less than ₹8 crore was indefensible. The CBI court order had even claimed that Shourie and Baijal had misused their official positions which led to a loss of ₹244 crores to the government exchequer.

The court had refused to accept the Closure Report filed by the CBI and in its order on September 15 and had asked for the five accused to be summoned through warrants.

Abdullah's speech sparks differences in 'Gupkar Declaration' signatories

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

DIFFERENCES have cropped up in signatories to the August 22 "Gupkar Declaration" vowing restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Peoples Conference, one of the signatories, has slamming National Conference president and sitting MP Farooq Abdullah for giving 'silent burial' to the declaration by not taking up the Article 370 revocation in his speech in the Lok Sabha.

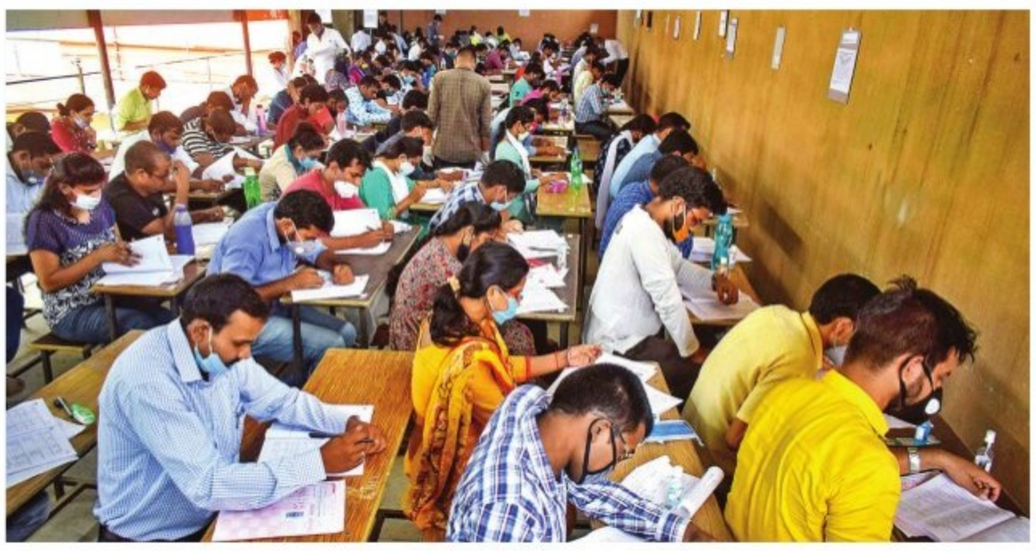
"It is astonishing to see Abdullah give a complete miss to revocation of Article 370. Though he spoke about dialogue with Pakistan and internet ban but didn't utter a single word about Article 370 and the declaration," senior vice president of Peoples Conference and former minister Abdul Gani Vakil said.

He was referring to Abdullah's speech on Saturday in which he talked about problems faced by people, especially students and traders due to blocking of 4G internet in J&K.

"He gave a silent burial to the core issue in the parliament. This questions the sole purpose of the declaration," he said.

It was Abdullah's first speech in Lok Sabha after Article 370 revocation on August 5 last year and his detention.

On August 22, six political parties of J&K including National Conference, PDP, Peoples Conference, Congress, CPI(M) and ANC signed "Gupkar Declaration-II" and vowed to fight collectively against revocation of J&K's special status.



IN TESTING TIMES

Applicants appear in UPPSC Assistant Review Officer examination at a centre in Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday | PTI

'CM should visit in disguise to see reality of Bihar'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

No talks on seat-sharing yet, says Chirag

Putting to rest all speculation that seat-sharing in the NDA has been decided in principle, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Chirag Paswan on Sunday told party leaders via a letter that no discussion with the alliance partners of NDA has been held so far

STEPPING up the political attacks on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ahead of the assembly polls, Bihar's leader of opposition Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday once again accused him of being tolerant to corruption and unemployment.

Yadav's accusation came on the day the JD-U put posters carrying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's lines of appreciation for Kumar recently.

Taking to his twitter, Tejashwi Yadav openly challenged Kumar asking him to name a single police station and block where work of public is done without taking offering.

"If you don't trust me, come with me in disguise and you will see the reality on what I say," Yadav said, adding that corruption and arrogance towards the people in the state bureaucracy and all other departments has skyrocketed. He also tagged a video with his tweet showing how money is needed to anything done.

Tejashwi reiterated that he would continue questioning the government on corruption, unemployment and nepotism.

"I will not allow running away from actual problem of people to virtual politics. I have a volume of questions on the failures of your government and irregularities commited so far," he said.

Accusing the CM of running the present and future of 7 crores youths of the state, Yadav asked Kumar to say why they have not been given employments yet.

"You said that 10 lakh people get employments every day, but the ground reality is completely opposite", he said, adding that effect of age has become visible on the Chief Minister and the fear of defeat making tense and worried a lot.

Meanwhile, the NDA leaders mocked Yadav for dropping the photographs of his parents Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi from posters put up by the RJD.

MP: Candidates use stray cow, Ram Temple to seek votes

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

IT'S all happening in Madhya Pradesh ahead of the crucial assembly by-polls. While the supporters of ruling BJP candidate from Surkhi seat and cabinet minister Govind Singh Rajput have linked every vote for him to the building of Ram Temple at Ayodhya, the supporters of Congress candidate Premchand Guddu has found a stray cow an ideal medium for his campaign.

Videos of Rajput's supporters soliciting votes in the name of Ram Temple at Ayodhya have gone viral over the social media. In the video, one of Rajput's supporters is then heard telling a woman voter that one vote on the Lotus (symbol for BJP) will mean adding one brick for the construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

In Sanver seat of Indore district, an image of the cow, with the slogan *Sanver ka Vikas, Premchand Guddu* has also gone viral on the social media.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

Eknath Khadse's tell-all memoir

Estranged BJP leader Eknath Khadse has announced writing a book on his political career, mainly focusing on the last five year of the BJP government. Khadse has already chosen the title of the book — 'Nana Fadnavis Sanchay Barbhai Karbhar' (working style of Nana Fadnavis). A legend in the Maratha history, Nanasaheb was such influential that he had become the de facto head of the Maratha kingdom. Khadse said he will pen down his own experience of the BJP government and how his image of one of the senior-most BJP leaders in Maharashtra was tarnished through various conspiracy theories and news plants in media.

Shahid Balwa back from wilderness

Fortune seems to have smiled on Shahid Balwa. The Mumbai developer has been keepping a low profile after he was named as one of the accused in the 2G spectrum scam. However, Balwa was recently heard flaunting his connection in the Maharashtra government. During a recent visit to the Mantralaya to meet a minister, he told the people with him that he does not need any sort of pre-appointments to meet NCP ministers. "I can barge any office at any time. I have a good relationship with NCP leaders," Balwa told people who accompanied him. Incidentally, Balwa was appointed by the MVA government as a member of the steering committee to review issues concerning the real estate sector in Maharashtra.

Trial by fire for Uddhav

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray has had no easy moment ever since he assumed office. First, the pandemic broke out and then Governor BS Koshyari became a stumbling block for him. No sooner that was sorted out, he had the Congress, a ruling ally, complaining inadequate funds for its MLAs. His son Aaditya's name was then dragged in the Sushant Singh Rajput case. Now, Uddhav is faced with the quota trouble after the apex court's interim order of holding back 16 per cent Maratha reservations.

BJP seeks Shelar's Midas touch

Former minister Ashish Shelar has been made observer for Thane BJP. Perhaps, the part mandarins had kept in mind his role in giving the Shiv Sena a tough fight in the prestigious BMC elections. As the Mumbai BJP unit chief, Shelar's hard work had ensured the BJP 82 seats in 2017 upf from 32 in 2012. The Sena had just two seats more than the BJP. Such was the euphoria among the BJP that even the mother of erstwhile chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had called Shelar to congratulate him. The same kind of magic is expected from Shelar in Thane against the Sena yet again.

8.5 lakh residents of Madrid were bracing Sunday for a partial lockdown as Spanish authorities seek to put a brake on a second wave of Covid-19.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	24	18	TDS	Los Angeles	29	17	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	16	5	LC
Doha	38	28	SNY	Moscow	17	8	LC
Dubai	40	29	SNY	New York	26	13	LC
Houston	34	24	SNY	Singapore	30	25	TDS
Istanbul	29	21	LC	Toronto	19	9	SNY
London	30	16	SNY	Washington DC	28	14	LC

US President Donald Trump wraps up his speech at a campaign rally at Fayetteville Regional Airport in North Carolina on Saturday | AP

2 GOP Senators demur on push to fill Ginsburg seat

Trump hurries to get replacement before poll; fight shifts to Senate where GOP has majority

WASHINGTON

THE race for the White House heated up Sunday with both sides galvanized by the battle to nominate a new Supreme Court justice and Donald Trump vowing to soon name his choice.

The president said Saturday that he expected to announce his nominee in the coming week and that it "will be a woman -- a very talented, very brilliant woman."

He said he had not made his final decision, however, on a replacement for liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died Friday.

The prospect of a Senate confirmation vote on a Trump nominee even before the Nov 3 election – or in the lame-duck session immediately following -- has sparked furious push-back from Democrats desperate to stop Trump moving the court lastingly to the right.

Trump's opponent in the election, former vice president Joe Biden, has joined other Democrats in saying the choice of Ginsburg's replacement -- to a lifetime appointment -- should be left to the next president.

But with GOP holding 53 of the 100 Senate seats, Democrats face an uphill battle.

Among the Democrats' few options: delaying tactics in the Senate and efforts to mobilize public pressure on a few moderate Republicans to split with their party. At least two Republicans, Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins, have shown concern about a rushed vote.

"We have our options... arrows in our quiver," House speaker Nancy Pelosi, a senior Democrat, said Sunday on *ABC*'s "This Week."

But she rejected the notion of using talks with the Trump administration over a new pandemic relief bill as leverage to slow matters.

The court vacancy has provided a welcome new theme for Trump -- who has struggled to play down the toll of the coronavirus pandemic.

Pelosi was intent on keeping the virus issue prominent returning to that theme repeatedly in "This Week". *AFP*

Sharif attacks army in united oppn meet

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S deposed premier Nawaz Sharif on Sunday staged a political comeback by criticising the powerful Army and said the Opposition was not against Prime Minister Imran Khan but against those who brought an "inefficient" man to power.

Addressing the All-Parties Conference (APC) hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) via a video link aimed at launching a protest movement against the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, the three-time premier launched a scathing attack on the ruling party for its 'failure to address the basic problems of the people'.

Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

Former PM Nawaz Sharif attends a conference of opposition parties via video link from London | SCREENSHOT

On Friday, PPP chairman Zardari talked to him over phone and invited him to virtually attend the Opposition-led All Parties Conference (APC) scheduled to be held on Sunday. Addressing the conference, Sharif criticised the country's powerful establishment for allegedly supporting Khan.

"Our struggle is not against Imran Khan. Today, our struggle is against those who installed Imran Khan and who manipulated elections (of 2018) to bring an inefficient man like him into power and thus destroyed the country,' he said.

Sharif said that the foremost priority should be to remove 'this selected government and this system', adding that "if the change is not brought, it will bring irreversible loss to this country.'

He asked the powerful Army to stay away from politics and follow the Constitution and vision of the country's father Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Sharif pointed out that former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani once said that there was "a state within a state" in Pakistan. 'It is saddening that the situation has escalated to a state above the state. This parallel government illness is the root-cause of our problems,' he said.

He asked the leaders attending the conference to make important decisions to change the system of the country, alleging that the current government has enforced 'martial law' in the country. *PTI*

Lifting the veil on Palantir

Perhaps the most secretive firm to emerge from Silicon Valley, Palantir is set for a stock market debut this month that may shed light on the Big Data firm specializing in law enforcement and national security

Company's name comes from the mystical seeing stone in *Lord of the Rings*

$10 bn Palantir's filing suggests a valuation of some $10 billion, down from a private value as high as $25 billion, according to Renaissance Capital

CEO of Palantir Alex Karp. On the right is Peter Theil, Palantir's biggest shareholder, an early Facebook investor and one of the rare tech executives who backed Donald Trump's campaign in 2016

9/11 Created after the Sept 11, 2001 terror attacks with initial funding from a CIA venture-capital unit, Palantir and its predictive analytics platform reportedly have helped the US military locate Osama bin Laden and track arms movements in West Asia

PREDICTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Palantir is a major player in "predictive policing," which critics say can amplify bias in law enforcement. A 2017 paper by sociologist Sarah Brayne found the Palantir platform can connect seemingly unrelated bits of data for investigators, but can also lead to warrant-less data collection

MASS SURVEILLANCE

- Activists argue that Palantir's technology -- which scoops up financial records, social media posts, call records and internet records -- enables unprecedented opportunities for mass surveillance with little oversight on privacy and fundamental rights.
- Human rights activists have staged protests against Palantir after US agencies used its technology to hunt down illegal immigrants in the United States.
- The immigration rights activist group Mijente claims Palantir technology is used in operations to track and arrest thousands of people "just for being undocumented."

GROWING SALES

	LOSS	REVENUE
2018	$580,027	$595,409
2019	$579,646	$742,555
2020 H1*	$164,729	$481,216

*First half of the year

50% of Palantir's revenues were from government contracts last year, the company said

POTENT TOXIN

Creator of Novichok apologises to Navalny

MOSCOW

A scientist involved in the secret Soviet programme to create the Novichok nerve agent has apologised to the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, who is recovering from poisoning in Berlin. Vil Mirzayanov, a chemist who was the first to reveal Novichok's development, in an interview with Russia's TV Rain on Saturday evening said he wanted to apologise to Navalny after Germany said it found "unequivocal evidence" he was poisoned with Novichok. The opposition politician on Saturday described his severe symptoms after falling ill on a plane on August 20, including inability to form words, saying he still struggled to pour a glass of water or use a phone.

"I offer my profound apologies to Navalny for the fact that I took part in this criminal business, developing this substance that he was poisoned with," said Mirzayanov, who now lives in the United States and wrote the first articles on Novichok's development in the early 1990s.

His apology comes as another scientist who worked on the programme has denied that Navalny could have been poisoned with Novichok.

So far three scientists, now in their 70s, have made public statements after working on the top-secret Soviet project. Mirzayanov predicted that Navalny would eventually recover. "Navalny will just have to be patient but in the end, he should be healthy," Mirzayanov said, predicting recovery would take "almost a year." *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Inventor of Gore-Tex fabric dies at 83

Robert W. Gore, whose invention of what created the breathable-yet-waterproof fabric known as Gore-Tex revolutionized outdoor wear and helped spawn uses in numerous other fields, has died. Gore, who was president of W. L. Gore & Associates for almost 25 years and company chairman for 30, died on Thursday at a family home in Maryland following a prolonged illness, a company spokesperson said. Gore discovered a new form of a polymer in 1969 at a company lab in Delaware. His father, who began the company, asked Bob Gore to research a new way to make plumber's tape at a low cost using PTFE, commonly known as DuPont's Teflon. The son figured out that by stretching PTFE with a sudden yank, the polymer expanded by 1,000 percent. The resulting product, known as ePTFE, created a microporous structure. The introduction of Gore-Tex tech came seven years later.

SOLIH'S PLEA

India loans $250 mn to Maldives to tackle virus

MALE

INDIA has provided financial assistance of $250 million to the Maldives to help it mitigate the economic impact of Covid-19, the Indian embassy here said on Sunday. The grant, provided under the most favourable terms possible, was in response to the request made by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to overcome the difficult economic situation in the Maldives.

A handover ceremony was held on Sunday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives to mark the occasion in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid, Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer, High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir and CEO, SBI, Male Bharat Mishra, the embassy said in a statement.

The financial assistance was announced first during a virtual meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and provided through a Treasury Bond sale to the State Bank of India (SBI), Male, which has a tenure of 10 years for repayment, it said.

The assistance follows a $500 million pledge by New Delhi in August to help build bridges and causeways in the nation of 1,192 islands.

Under former President Abdulla Yameen, who was ousted in 2018 elections, the Maldives borrowed some $1.4 billion from Beijing for expensive infrastructure projects.

The loans added to critics' concerns that Chinese aid in Asia and beyond was saddling countries with unsustainable debt burdens.

The bond takes New Delhi's total pledged financial assistance to the Maldives to over $2 billion since Solih came to power, according to India's foreign ministry. *Agencies*

US BID TO RESTORE UN SANCTIONS ON IRAN SCORNED BY OTHER NATIONS

TEHRAN

IRAN said Sunday its arch-foe the United States is facing "maximum isolation" after major powers dismissed a unilateral US declaration that UN sanctions on Tehran were back in force.

The administration of US President Donald Trump said the sanctions had been re-activated under the "snapback" mechanism in a landmark 2015 nuclear treaty -- despite Washington having withdrawn from the deal.

As other signatories cast doubt on the move having any legal effect, Washington threatened to "impose consequences" on states failing to comply. But Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said a concerted campaign by Washington to pressure Tehran had backfired.

He praised the UN Security Council's approach to the issue as "very valuable" as it ignored "America's request (and) held no session to consider their request". The Security Council was what "the Americans always thought of as their point of strength," he said.

On Sunday, France, Germany and Britain issued a statement saying Washington's "purported notification" was "incapable of having any legal effect".

The sanctions in question had been lifted when Iran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany signed the 2015 treaty on Iran's nuclear programme, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. But Trump withdrew the US from the JCPOA in 2018, saying the deal -- negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama -- was insufficient. He also renewed and strengthened Washington's own sanctions as part of a "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic republic.

The US insists it is still a participant in the agreement that it stormed out of – but only so it can activate the snapback option, which it announced on August 20.

Virtually every other UNSC member disputes Washington's ability to execute this legal pirouette, and the United Nations body has not taken the measure any further. *AFP*

NO HACKWORK

China's rich want bodyguards skilled in digital dark arts

TIANJIN

At the "Genghis Security Academy", which bills itself as China's only dedicated bodyguard school, students learn that the threats to the country's newly-rich in the tech age are more likely to emerge from a hacker than a gunman.

Each day students in matching black business suits toil from dawn until midnight at the school in the eastern city of Tianjin, where digital defences are given equal pegging to the traditional close-protection skillset of combat, weapons training and high-speed driving.

Around a thousand graduate each year, hoping to land jobs as guards to China's burgeoning ranks of rich and famous, positions which can be worth up to $70,000 -- several times more than an annual office wage.

But the school says it can't meet demand as China's rapid growth mints millionaires -- 4.4 million according to a Credit Suisse 2019 report, more than in the US.

The course fees are up to $3,000 a student. Only the best make the cut, says founder Chen Yongqing, insisting his disciplinarian standards are stricter than in the army.

About half of the students are ex-military, Chen says.

A group of trainees do push-ups as punishment for losing a debate during class at the Genghis Security Academy in Tianjin | AFP

But in a highly surveilled country with a low rate of street crime, the modern minder needs an up-to-date skillset, against state monitoring or professional hackers. "Chinese bosses don't need you to fight," Chen tells his students of a client base that has the country's biggest real estate and tech firms.

Repelling hacks on mobile phones, network security, spotting eavesdroppers and wiping data are all required tools in the bodyguard's armoury. "What would you do if the boss wants to destroy a video file immediately?" Chen asks a class. *AFP*

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

No. SA/A/RS/ED/OT/20-21/8, Date:18/09/2020.

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Southern Railway, Electric Loco Shed, Erode acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites online E-tender for the under mentioned work.

Name of the work: Works contract for Up- gradation of Smoothing Reactor type SL-30 of Electric Locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode. Tender Value: ₹27,83,970/- Earnest Money Deposit: ₹55,700/- Cost of tender document: ₹3,360/- Completion Period: **6 months**. Closing Date & Time: **09/10/2020 @ 11.00 hrs**

For further details interested persons may kindly log on to **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tender till ten days prior to the opening of the tender. Tenderers are advised to check the web site before submitting their offer whether any such corrigendum to the tender has been issued or not.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Southern Railway, Electric Loco Shed, Erode.

Follow us on : twitter.com/@GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. AJAY KUMAR PANDEY has agreed to sell the schedule property in favour of my Client **Mr. NEERAJ PALIWAL,** free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned his Counsel Mr.RADESH.K, Office at No.7, HM Pearl Complex, Thubarahalli Bangalore. [contact: +91 9008242426] within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of the residential **Flat bearing No: 4113**, Level 11, Tenth Floor of Block-2 in Wing D, Tower No.4, measuring 1290 Sq.ft of super built up area, in Project known as **"PRESTIGE FERNS RESIDENCY",** Constructed on Sy.No: 1/1 and others, totally measuring 24 Acre 03 Guntas, Situated at Haraluru Village, Marathalli Sub Division, Bangalore.

Contact : **Mr. RADESH** BE, LL.B, LL.M
Director - MKM Legal Solutions Pvt Ltd.
e-mail id: radesh@mkmlegalsolutions
Contact No: +91 9008242426

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II BENGALURU

No.4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building Residency Road, Bangalore - 560025

DRC NO: 1251/2019 FORM NO.14 (See Regulation 33(2))

CANARA BANK
Frazer Town Branch,
No.86/3-4, Coles Road,
Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005.
...Certificate Holder

Versus

Smt. Mubeena Begum & Another
... Certificate Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

1) Smt. Mubeena Begum W/o Sri.Sadiq Pasha, Res at: No.22, 9th Main, 4th Block, HBR Layout, Hennur Cross, Bengaluru-560043.

2) Sri.Sadiq Pasha S/o Sri. Mohammed Khasim Res at: No.22, 9th Main, 4th Block, HBR Layout, Hennur Cross, Bengaluru-560043.

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No.40/2017** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangaluru on **18.12.2019** an amount of **Rs.23,45,480/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of filling of O.A.s till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay: a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution procedings. b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect, of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **6th day of Jan 2020.**

Sd/-
(Rajasekharan.R)
Recovery Officer-1, DRT-1, Bangalore

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 which is reproduced below:

Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any Interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my Client intend to purchase the Schedule Property Item No. 1 & 2 which is mentioned hereunder, from the present owner **Sri. K G Krishna Gowda S/o. Sri. V Govindappa**, Residing at No. 359, 17th 'B' Cross Road/ 18th Cross, 33rd Main, 6th Stage J P Nagar, Bangalore - 560078. If any person have any claim in any manner or objections in respect of the Schedule Property Item No. 1 & 2, such persons shall claim with all supporting original documents within 7 days from today to the under signed in person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1.
All that piece and parcel of vacant Site bearing No. 2, New Khatha No. 2/248, Doddakallasandra Village Khatha No. 2, now under BBMP, measuring East to West 40 Ft. and North to South 30 Ft. situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on: East by: Site No. 3, West by: Site No. 1, North by: Road, South by: Site No. 4.

Item No. 2.
All that piece and parcel of vacant Site bearing No. 3, Doddakallasandra Village Khatha No. 2, now under BBMP, measuring East to West 30 Ft. and North to South 40 Ft. situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Site No. 2 belonging to Smt. Leelavathi, North by: Road, South by: Site No. 4 belonging to Krishne Gowda.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 19.09.2020

Sd/- K.S CHANDRA SHEKAR
Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, No.21, Dhondusa Layout, Off. Bull Temple Road, Mount Joy Cross Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-19. Mob: 9448366193

punjab national bank

BRANCH OFFICE : **JAYANAGAR Branch,** # 1382, 32nd Cross, 4th 'T' Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **1.2.2020** calling upon the borrowers, **Mr. Avinash R, Mr. Dinesh Babu R and Mrs. Pavithra R** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.29,96,588/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight Only)** being the dues as on **31.1.2020** until payment in full within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **16.9.2020**.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank (erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce) for an amount of **Rs.29,96,588/-(Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight Only)** being the dues as on **1.2.2020** and further interest and other expenses thereon.

The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No.72, Khata No.407/41/3/72 situated at Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli Bangalore East Taluk measuring East to West 64.5 ft. and North to South on East side 53 ft, West side 55 ft, totalling to 3483 sq.ft, and bounded on the **East by :** Site No 71, **West by :** 30 ft Road, **North by :** 30 ft Road and **South by :** Site No. 73 and Private Property.

For Punjab National Bank
(SECURED CREDITOR)
(Mercy Victor)
CHIEF MANAGER
(AUTHORISED OFFICER)

Date : 16.9.2020
Place : Bangalore

QuoteExpress

IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

₹84,023 cr non-tax revenue has been collected by the Centre during the ongoing financial year, says MoS Anurag Singh Thakur

FIGURING OUT 'VACCINE' PORTFOLIOS

The pandemic has thrown the world out of whack and what emerges on the other side is likely to be very different for many sectors

TAPAS RANJAN

RAJAS KELKAR

THE widespread pandemic is both a threat and an opportunity. Financial markets are edgy as central bankers, financial and business experts flag risks in the next few months due to a slower economic recovery. Last week, this column talked about 'Robinhood' investing. This week, we talk about another term doing the rounds in the financial markets—a 'vaccine' portfolio.

It is a name given to companies that could do well after the pandemic. The quest now is to identify them. More than individual businesses, it is essential for you to understand the philosophy behind such a portfolio.

The pandemic, and the lockdown that followed, has affected businesses in different sectors in different ways. According to analysts, companies that are market leaders in their respective segments have done well during the lockdown. Companies with a strong brand presence and services have managed to retain customers and get new ones too. Then, there are those companies that can go to the market and get the money they need to do the business. The lockdown has nudged the unorganised sector to get more organised. That is likely to benefit existing organised players in those respective sectors.

Shaktikanta Das, the Reserve Bank of India Governor, made a speech recently and argued about potential forces that could drive India's economic recovery. You may want to align your long-term savings into businesses that contribute to these forces.

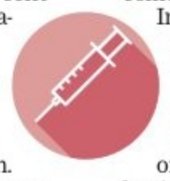
He puts the education sector on top of the list. If you are a parent, you could have witnessed an upheaval in your child's schooling and learning. There is likely to be a disruption in the way education is imparted in the post-Covid world. Amidst that, the government has announced a new education policy recently.

For every one rupee spent on education, an additional income of up to ₹15 can be generated, according to the data published by UNESCO, a United Nations body. Every additional year of schooling increases income by another 10 per cent every year. Higher education is even better. With the new education policy, India's government proposes to spend 6 per cent of the gross domestic product on education. The government is encouraging public-private partnerships. Businesses that develop the relevant education infrastructure or support education in the post-Covid world would do well.

The other area the RBI Governor highlights are healthcare services. He argues that the pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of easy access to health services. Companies that make healthcare simple for users are another area to add to the vaccine portfolio. There is a good chance that the government may enhance the spending on healthcare infrastructure. Businesses that run hospitals, testing labs, online medical consulting and training could benefit from an investment in a healthcare eco-system.

The government is pushing India as a manufacturing destination in light of the disruption due to trade wars. In the post-COVID period, exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals are one area where there could be a boost. The RBI Governor argues in the speech that the Indian government has approved an investment package for promotion of bulk drug parks and production-linked incentive schemes to push the domestic production of drug intermediates and active pharma ingredients.

Food processing is another area the RBI Governor explained in the speech that could see significant activity. With successive years of record production of food grains and horticulture crops, India has become a food surplus economy.



India is all set to witness a second straight above normal monsoon. All of it is likely to lead to a bumper harvest again. To avoid wastage of food and other items, businesses into the food processing sector could see a focus from investors.

What you can do

Being aware of these potential sunrise sectors is good for your finances. You can watch institutional investors like private equity entering into space. For example, online learning app Byju's has generated a lot of personal equity interest. At some stage, these companies would get listed. Similarly, you may want to follow developments in healthcare, pharmaceuticals and food processing sectors to get a sense of the potential. From a personal finance standpoint, you can invest in mutual funds that target these sectors or themes. To identify specific stocks, you must get professional help.

EQUITY TALK

Investor's Bane: Shifting Goalposts

ASHOK KUMAR

IMAGINE a mid-fielder in a football game following his Coach's game-plan, out-dribbling the opponents a la Diego Maradona, and then with the outfeinted goal-keeper at his mercy, finding that the referee has shifted the goalpost to some other part of the ground. Chances are, he would throw a terrible tantrum and receive a yellow-card at least, if not red.

Well, many investors and their financial advisors, not to speak of Fund Managers and AMC personnel must now be left feeling bewildered like the unfortunate mid-fielder in the above analogy. The reason for their bewilderment is the rather abrupt sweeping change brought about by SEBI in the case of Multi-Cap Funds, earlier this month.

SEBI has asked mutual fund houses to invest at least 25 per cent each in large caps, mid-caps and small caps, in their respective multi cap schemes. The regulator seemed to suggest that the multi-cap schemes were deviating from their mandate by concentrating their investments in large and mid-cap companies.

But then, wasn't it SEBI which in the first place, gave the multi-cap funds the mandate to make secular investments across market caps sans restrictions unlike in the other categories it had demarcated funds into. And not too long ago, mind you.

Multi-cap funds were supposed to be plain vanilla funds where the fund managers could cherry-pick stocks across market-capitalizations sans restrictions. What the new SEBI iteration does is, force the fund manager's hand. For example, it forces selection of a higher risk carrying set of small-cap stocks in the portfolio even when the market and this segment appears for a decisive correction, while at the same time restricting the quantum of exposure to small-cap stocks that could fly when a bull run commences.

So, who gets protected from what risk in the market and who benefits from this strait-jacketing of fund managers? Further, if SEBI is going to be pre-deciding the market cap wise allocation too that needs to be made in every scheme, then robots are not the only job redundancy threat that fund managers need to worry about hereon.

And what about those investors who have carefully constructed portfolios based on SEBI's earlier categorization and have ongoing SIPs and STP's in multi-cap funds? Chances are, many of them may simply follow the market adage of 'exit when in doubt'.

SEBI has also issued a clarification that rebalancing the multi cap scheme portfolios is not the only option. Mutual fund houses can also facilitate a switch to other schemes by unit-holders, merge their multi cap scheme with their large cap scheme or convert their multi cap scheme to another scheme category, perhaps large and mid-cap scheme category.

Well, how about simply renaming these funds Flexi-Caps instead and getting on with business as usual? You see, the Yanks have a famous saying: 'If it aint broke, don't fix it.' Applies in this case.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Three IPOs set to hit the markets in two days

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER the stellar opening of Happiest Minds on D-Street last week, three more private firms are set to go public in just the next two days. Mutual funds transfer agency CAMS, Chemical manufacturer Chemcon Speciality will have their IPO open for subscription on Monday, while brokerage house Angel Broking's IPO is slated to hit market on Tuesday.

Experts feel increasing in liquidity flow and the rebounding of stock market amid higher participation of retail investors will garner a positive response for the three IPOs.

NSE-backed CAMS, one of the largest registrars of the Indian asset management companies with a market share of 70 per cent, aims to raise ₹2,242 crore in a price band of ₹1,229-1,230. The IPO opens on Monday and close on September 23.

It consists of an offer for sale of 1,82,46,600 equity shares by NSE Investments, a subsidiary of NSE. The 30-year old company has some big names such as Warburg Pincus, Faering Capital, ACSYS Investments, and HDFC as shareholders.

The IPO of Gujarat-based Chemco comprises fresh issuance of equity shares aggregating up to ₹165 crore and an offer for sale of up to 45 lakh equity scrips by promoters. The company proposes to raise ₹318 crore via the IPO.

CASH INCOMING

₹2.2k cr is the amount CAMS hopes to raise

₹600 cr fund raising targetted by Angel Broking

Ahead of its IPO, Chemcon raised over ₹95 crore from 13 anchor investors

"The IPO committee of the company, in consultation with merchant bankers, has finalised allocation of 28,05,880 equity shares to anchor investors at ₹340 per share, at the higher end of the price band," the company said.

Ahead of its IPO, Chemcon raised over ₹95 crore from 13 anchor investors, including IDFC Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, IIFL, HSBC Global and Mirae Asset Mutual Fund.

Angel Broking's IPO will open between September 22 and September 24 at a price band of ₹305-₹306/share. It plans to raise up to ₹600 crore through the book-building issue, comprising ₹18.33 crore and ₹4.5 crore worth equity shares by promoters Ashok D Thakkar and Sunita A Magnani respectively.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹317.95

Target Price ₹360

GUJARAT GAS

Despite price cuts, gross margin for GUJGA is likely to remain healthy at ~INR7.7/scm (v/s INR7.4/scm in 4QFY20). GUJGA has seen the fastest recovery in volumes post lifting of the lockdowns— total volumes averaged ~9.5 mmscmd QTD.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*

If used responsibly, credit cards can often come to your rescue

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

IN an uncertain economic environment, where lay-offs and pay cuts have become the order of the day, paying for monthly bills or saving for medical emergencies or children's education fees is certainly getting tougher. But consumers can turn to credit cards if they are responsible with spending and payments to achieve a certain financial independence.

While credit card penetration is still quite low in India, changing mindsets, cautious spendings and adoption of technology especially among millenials has led to an increased usage of credit cards, according to JP Morgan. According to CRED, a credit card bills payment platform, there are several ways in which credit cards can help in trying times.

For one, the current crisis has seen incomes fluctuate for many, and become unpredictable for many more. In such times, credit cards can become a heaven-sent instrument for balancing out lumpy income with steady needs. For example, rent, fuel, and school fees are monthly fixed expenditures. By moving these expenses to your credit card, you may be able to free up liquidity. The company says since many credit cards come with rewards and points, this will help optimise spending.

Disciplined and responsible usage is rewarded with an impeccable credit score, which helps in qualifying for bigger loans with better rates that may help support larger life goals

CRED

Credit cards also help by maintaining a record of financial transactions. Expenses can be tracked and monitored much better when there's a record, accessible on demand. In a state or emergency, credit cards can come handy, helping meet urgent needs like unforeseen medical expenses.

Paying back credit card dues on time and properly is one of the easiest ways to build a good credit score, which helps build creditworthiness. Disciplined and responsible usage increases your score and helps in qualifying for bigger loans with better rates that may help support larger life goals such as starting a business or buying a vehicle or house, said the company.

EXPRESS READ

EPFO records 8.45 lakh new enrolments in July

New Delhi: Net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO rose to 8.45 lakh in July from 4.82 lakh in June 2020, according to its latest payroll data, providing a perspective on employment in the formal sector amid the COVID-19 crisis. Provisional payroll data released by the EPFO last month had shown that net new enrolments stood at 6.55 lakh in June this year. The figure has now been revised down to 4,82,352. The net enrolments with EPFO had dropped to 5.72 lakh in March 2020 from 10.21 lakh in February, data showed.

Over 19,800 NCLT cases pending as of July 31

New Delhi: As many as 19,844 cases were pending before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as on July 31 this year and majority of them were under the insolvency law, according to the corporate affairs ministry. Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said a total 320 posts of officers/staff have been created in the NCLT. To a query on whether the government has any plans to identify NCLT benches specifically for matters related to the IBC, the minister replied in the negative.

Govt garners ₹9,538 cr from tax dispute resolution

New Delhi: The government has collected ₹9,538 crore revenue from the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas scheme, Parliament was informed on Sunday. Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said as many as 35,074 declarations have been filed under the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas scheme till September 8, 2020. "This figure does not include the payments made by the taxpayers who are yet to file their declarations under the scheme," Thakur said.

Investors' guide to Sebi's modified Net Asset Value rules for mutual funds

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

COME January 1, 2021, mutual fund investors will be able to avail the closing net asset value (NAV) of a scheme on the day their funds are realised. The new NAV rules, however, will not be applicable to liquid and overnight funds and cut-off timings for all schemes shall remain unchanged, said markets regular Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in a recent circular.

"It has been decided that in respect of purchase of units of mutual fund schemes, closing NAV of the day shall be applicable on which the funds are available for utilisation irrespective of size and time of receipt of such application," Sebi said. Currently, investment up to ₹2 lakh in an equity or debt mutual fund gets the NAV of the same day if the application is submitted before 1 pm. For higher sums, the NAV is applicable subject to realisation of funds. This could be up to three days after the cheque is submitted. Sebi is now implementing a level playing field for all investors.

The mutual fund schemes—except liquid and overnight—shall allot the units and NAVs on the basis of when the funds have realised the cheques rather than the size or time of the investments. If you submit the purchase application after 1 pm, you get the next day's NAV. Similarly, if you submit the application before 12:30 pm you get the previous day's NAV. In addition to the submission of the application, the new circular also mandates that the money has to reach the fund house on the same day to get that day's NAV.

Meanwhile, experts say that the new system may be an issue for investors who submit purchase orders very close to the cut off time. Funds can be credited quickly through online fund transfers, but there could be some lag for cheque deposits. Customers of smaller banks also tend to have slower settlement cycles.

That apart, the circular says that AMCs need to put in place a detailed written-down policy including details of the specific activities and the roles and responsibilities of various teams engaged in various activities for the fund

Life insurance sector struggling to recover from Covid-19 hit

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STARTING March, life insurance companies including Life Insurance Corporation have reported a contraction in new business premiums, four months in a row.

As uncertainty prevails over salaries and job loss, there are less takers for new insurance policies. This has resulted in the industry losing around four million policies and premiums worth around ₹45,000 crore.

"The industry as a whole lost four million policies and around ₹15,000 crore of new business premium. Since the lockdown happened, people were saving money for necessities. So, around ₹30,000 crore of renewal premium did not materialise," Raj Kumar, managing director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) said.

Rating agencies quote higher numbera. According to Care Rating, the life insurance sector witnessed a 18.6 per cent drop in the first year premiums to ₹49,335 crore in the April-June quarter of the current financial year. Insurers claimed that even when business was bouncing back to normal from August, growth in renewals is only marginal.

"The increase in new businesses are driven by HNIs. There have been a substantial amount of defaults, especially in the lower and middle income group. which means only high value renewals are coming. This year certainly it will not remain the same," another LIC official added.

This is certain to impact future business. According to data and analytics company GlobalData, the life insurance business in India is likely to contract in 2020, declining 0.9 per cent this year, compared to 8.8 per cent growth recorded in 2019, mainly on account of civic and financial uncertainties due to job loss and no growth in income. The trend is similar for private insurers too. "There is demand for health insurance products. But we have witnessed lukewarm response in life insurance," an official from Bharti Axa Life insurance said.

Spaniard Vinales wins Emilia-Romagna MotoGP

Spaniard Maverick Vinales on a Yamaha won the Emilia-Romagna MotoGP in Italy to move up to within one point of the championship lead. Joan Mir was second on a Suzuki and Spaniard Pol Espargaro (KTM) promoted a place to third after Frenchman Fabio Quartararo of the Yamaha-SRT satellite team crossed the line behind Mir.

CAPITAL SURPRISE, KING SIZE

Mayank heroics go in vain for Punjab as Delhi's Rabada shines in Super Over; Ashwin injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE Indian Premier League has the uncanny ability to throw up incredible sporting theatres and Sunday was no different. On a night when R Ashwin suffered a potentially serious shoulder injury, both Kings XI Punjab and Delhi Capitals took it in turns to punch the other into points of no return. Except, like two champion boxers, they refused to tap out. In the end, Delhi won by via a Super Over.

Delhi, inserted in, were 3/13 after four overs but still made 157 thanks Marcus Stoinis' violent half-century. Forty nine of the 53 runs he made came in the last three overs. Chasing 158, Kings XI lost four wickets for five runs midway into the innings to seemingly lose their way. However, Mayank Agarwal orchestrated one of the great IPL chases to take his team knocking on the door marked victory. They needed one run to win with three balls remaining.

That was when Stoinis, one of several contenders for the game's MVP, bowled a dot before picking two wickets in as many balls to send it to a Super Over. However, Agarwal and Chris Jordan can only blame themselves for picking the fielders off two full tosses to send the match into the super over. In the super over, Kagiso Rabada, a man made for conditions like this, removed KL Rahul and Nicholas Pooran for just two. The damning thing in all of this was there were three balls to go. After turning down several invitations to win, Delhi finally managed to win in a match neither side seemed keen to win.

Punjab's Mayank Agarwal scored a 60-ball 89 against Delhi | SPORTZPICS

The performance of the Kings XI batsmen in the Super Over was, in essence, reflected the performance of the batsmen of both teams. On a pitch that wasn't conducive to natural stroke play, both sets found it hard. Application was going to be the need of the hour and that was in short supply on a pitch that had lots of grass cover but the extra bounce came with a caveat: it was uneven. Caution, hence, should have been the byword but Delhi, one of the favourites for this edition, got 'over excited' a touch at the start as commentator Scott Styris said on air. They wanted to treat the ball as a punching bag without first assessing the conditions. Luckily for them, Kings XI batsmen, aped their strategy at the end.

One cause for concern for Delhi will be the potentially serious injury to spinner Ashwin. His one over, where he removed both Karun Nair and Pooran turned the match. But an innocuous looking dive to prevent a single caused considerable damage to his shoulder.

Brief scores: Delhi Capitals 157/8 (Stoinis 53, Shreyas 39; Shami 3/15) vs **Kings XI Punjab 157/8** (Agarwal 89).

FLAVOURS OF SOUTH

Perennial underachievers Royal Challengers Bangalore play consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai on Monday. Here are a few talking points...

BATTLE OF CAPTAINS

For RCB skipper Virat Kohli, the tournament's leading scorer, the title has remained elusive as the team haven't performed in all departments in the last few seasons. On the other hand, his SRH counterpart David Warner has won Orange Cap thrice and led his team to the title in 2016. But all this was made possible only as others played their part helping the team to Play-offs in the last four editions.

BOWLING REMAINS KEY

SRH is known for its depth and variation in bowling. Top T20 bowler Afghanistan leggie Rashid Khan will be the key for the team's success once again. Weak death bowling plagued RCB's campaign last season but they seem to have addressed the issue this year. Dale Steyn too will be raring to go after curtailed last season. However, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal will be their main weapon given the slow wickets in UAE.

PITCH & CONDITIONS

The surface in Dubai is usually good for batting with the average first-innings score being 152. The pitch might be on the slower side. Considering the dew factor, the team winning the toss might bat second. Temperature will be around 38 degrees.

84	669	4
Catches RCB's AB de Villiers has taken so far, the second-most in the tournament history.	David Warner has amassed 669 runs against RCB in IPL. He is third in the list of batsmen with most runs against the team.	Dale Steyn needs 4 more wickets to get 100-mark in the league.

HEAD TO HEAD

RCB 6

SRH 8

Rayudu's 3D vision at No 4 for Super Kings

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

THOSE who know Ambati Rayudu, know how emotional he is. At Chennai Super Kings, a team full of superstars and one many players have found a connection with, Rayudu has seldom shown that side of it. Otherwise a busy social media handle, it is hard to find any off the field posts on who they call "*Baahubali*." Yet, they know it is one place where he hasn't found a reason to be emotional. It is a place where the franchise knows he is all about himself.

Rayudu's shock retirement last year even surprised those in Chennai Super Kings. For a few days, he remained unavailable to the outside world, trying to put his disappointment behind, by spending time on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Days later, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan made a call to Rayudu. It was not even an effort to make him reconsider the decision, but a call where Rayudu was told or rather reminded there is still enough cricket in him and he should continue his stay with the franchise. Less than a month later, the 34-year-old had made himself available.

Ambati Rayudu scored a match-winning 71 in opener on Saturday

"The last year was a difficult year for a number of players on the fringe of that World Cup squad. That occupied a lot of minds. Certainly, with the form of some of our players this year, it is very much total commitment to CSK. Rayudu has been an emotional player throughout the years for us. He has been nothing short of fantastic. Again he turned the game around. His experience and also his skill set, was a major part for us to win today," Chennai coach Stephen Fleming said.

Saturday was his chance to show he had it in him. The three-time champions found themselves in a hole at 6/2. Out walked Rayudu at No 4. Chasing 163, Chennai couldn't have afforded further setbacks and Rayudu ensured there won't be any. Leaving the anchor role to Faf du Plessis, Rayudu became the enforcer that one usually sees with No 4s. Mixing caution with aggression, Rayudu calmly negated Jasprit Bumrah and ensured the spinners never settled – a trait that makes him even more special at No 4 – as Mumbai Indians were forced to keep Trent Boult for the death overs.

It was an innings where Rayudu played freely. There was no need to worry about India call-up or whether he is three dimensional. He knows the CSK set up value what he brings to the table. He knows there is a role for him at No 4 on these surfaces where spinners will have a say. And maybe, Rayudu too has a final say in where his career is headed.

SPORTING LIFE

WATCH TODAY

CRICKET

RCB vs SRH

7.30 PM, Live on Star Sports 1

FOOTBALL

EPL: Live on SS Select 1 and Hotstar

Aston Villa vs Sheffield United 10:30 pm; Wolves vs Man City 12:45 am

Serie A

Milan vs Bologna

Live on Sony Ten 2 @ 12:15 am

For news, views and more log on to newindianexpress.com/sports/ipl

Harikrishna finishes 7th, Carlsen & So win

CHENNAI: A below-par performance in Blitz-2, in which he managed only three points from nine rounds, saw Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna finish joint seventh in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament. World No 1 Magnus Carlsen and American Wesley So finished joint winners. Harikrishna's win on the final day came against American Jeffrey Xiong.

Two I-League players Covid-positive

KOLKATA: Bhawanipore FC's preparations for the upcoming I-League qualifiers suffered a setback after two of their players were found positive for Covid-19 on Sunday. Goalkeeper Akash Mondal and midfielder Sudipto Malakar were found positive following RT-PCR tests of all the 40 players and support staff during their camp, confirmed coach Sankarlal Chakraborty.

Barcelona president says he won't resign

BARCELONA: Barcelona's embattled club president has no intention of resigning after more than 20,000 club members signed a petition for Josep Bartomeu and his board to face a censure vote. "No one is thinking about stepping down," Bartomeu told Catalan television TV3 on Saturday before Barcelona beat Elche 1-0 in its third and final preseason friendly match.

Mbappe inspires PSG to victory in Nice

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe scored the opener for Paris Saint-German in a 3-0 win at Nice. The 21-year-old, who tested positive for coronavirus on September 7, was on target from the penalty spot in the 38th minute. Angel di Maria added a second just before half-time and Marquinhos headed the third after 66 minutes.

Neeraj injured, expected to train soon

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

INDIA'S top javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is recuperating from an ankle injury right now at NIS Patiala. The former junior world champion, who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics earlier this year, is not training and is expected to start later this week, increasing load as things progress.

Neeraj Chopra

It is understood that the 22-year-old thrower sustained the injury some 10 days ago while practising. According to sources close to the athlete, the injury is not very serious and since the season has not started as yet, there is nothing to be concerned about his recovery. The Athletics Federation of India too said that there is nothing much to worry about. Neeraj had a frustrating 2019 as he was out of action for almost the entire season due an elbow injury, for which he needed a surgery.

Mirabai goes home

Former world champion lifter Mirabai Chanu and national coach Vijay Sharma have gone on a 10-day break home. It is learnt that the two left NIS Patiala, where the lifters are currently training, on September 17. They are expected to return on September 27 and join the camp after following SAI SOPs.

No break for athletes

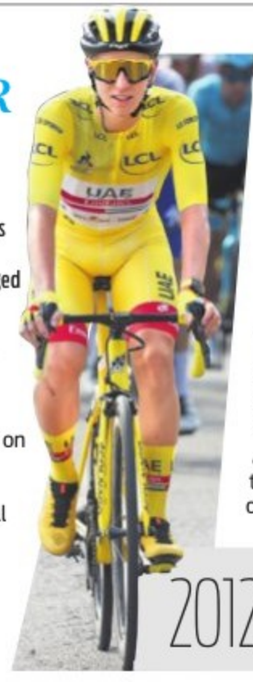
The AFI has apparently decided against stopping the training camp for athletes. This decision comes despite a few foreign coaches, including 400m coach Galina Bhukharina, having gone on a yearly break. Some of the athletes in NIS Patiala and Bengaluru have been requesting the federation to give them a breather for some time. The AFI, however, has been allowing athletes, who have emergency situation, to go on leave.

YOUTH POWER
Pogacar champ

The 107th edition of Tour de France provided thrills, spills, heroes and chokers while outsprinting the dark shadow of Covid-19. Slovenian Tadej Pogacar, 21, edged countryman Primoz Roglic to become youngest post-war winner. Highlights...

LAST-GASP TURNAROUND

Pogacar (UAE Team Emirates) produced a remarkable turnaround on Saturday to snatch the title from Roglic (Team Jumbo). Roglic will never forget the Stage 20 individual time-trial which provided the kind of painful choke that haunts sportsman of all kinds well into their dotage. Roglic had taken the race lead on Stage 9 and held it all the way to Saturday.



BEGINNER'S LUCK

What is amazing is that this was Pogacar's first Tour. Among others who pulled off the feat of winning at their first attempt: the great Eddy Merckx. The Belgian also won his next four Tours after his first in 1969.

DESERVED WIN

While Roglic was surrounded at the Tour by support riders who laboured tirelessly to protect his race lead, Pogacar had no such luxuries. Beating Roglic in the man-to-man time trial, the two of them alone against the clock, was a fitting tribute to the way in which Pogacar has often relied on his own formidable resources.

2012 This is the first time since 2012 where one nation has taken the top two spots. British riders Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome finished 1-2 in 2012.

ONE FOR THE CAMERAS

Bengaluru FC players, including captain Sunil Chhetri (c) pose with the new home kit for the 2020-21 season | BFC

Liverpool sink 10-man Chelsea, Son shines

AFP @Southampton

SADIO Mane tormented Chelsea as the Liverpool forward struck twice after sparking Andreas Christensen's dismissal in the champions' 2-0 win, while Son Heung-min scored four as Tottenham crushed Southampton 5-2 on Sunday.

Mane was involved in the turning point at Stamford Bridge as the first clash between Premier League title contenders this season swung Liverpool's way.

In first half stoppage-time, Jordan Henderson picked out Mane's run behind Christensen and the Denmark defender responded by rugby-tackling the Senegal star to the ground.

Liverpool players celebrate the win | AFP

Referee Paul Tierney initially booked Christensen, but VAR told him to consult the pitchside monitor and he changed his decision to a red card.Mane grabbed his first goal of the season in the 50th minute as he met Roberto Firmino's cross with a thumping header after eluding Reece James' slack marking.

Mane was gifted his second goal as Chelsea keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga made a hash of trying to play out from the back, allowing the Liverpool forward to intercept and slot into the empty net. It was the latest costly blunder from Kepa, who was dropped twice by Chelsea manager Frank Lampard last season despite his status as the world's most expensive keeper.

Jose Mourinho hailed Son and Harry Kane after the pair destroyed Southampton. Bale has returned to Tottenham on a season-long loan from Real Madrid seven years after he left the north London club for a then world record £85 million fee. But the forward will not be available until mid-October as he recovers from an injury, so Mourinho needs Son and Kane to carry the attack until then.

Results: Sunday: Chelsea 0-2 Liverpool, Southampton **2-5** Tottenham; Newcastle **0-3** Brighton. **Saturday:** Arsenal **2-1** West Ham; Man United **1-3** Crystal Palace.

ITALIAN OPEN

Nadal's run ends early, Djokovic battles through to semifinals

AFP @London

CLAY court king Rafael Nadal crashed out of the Italian Open on Saturday, falling to a straight sets defeat to Argentine Diego Schwartzman in a tournament the Spaniard had won nine times. Eight-seeded Schwartzman meted out a punishing 6-2, 7-5 loss in Nadal's final warm-up before his bid for a 13th French Open, and record-equalling 20th Grand Slam in just over a week.

Top men's seed Novak Djokovic also stumbled on the Roman clay but recovered to win through 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 against German qualifier Dominik Koepfer. "It was not my night at all," said Nadal, who had won all nine previous meetings against 28-year-old Schwartzman, but could not match his rival's stunning game on the red clay of the Foro Italico.

"He played a great match, not me, when this happens you have to lose," continued the 34-year-old. "It's not a moment for excuses. I've spent a long time without competing, I played two good matches."

The two-time defending champion was making his comeback after a six-month coronavirus-enforced break having skipped the US Open ahead of Roland Garros with its first round on September 27.

Rafael Nadal was stunned by Diego Schwartzman in quarters in Rome | AFP

"Losing as many serves, you can't expect to win a match, it's something that I have to fix, I know how to do it," he warned.

"It's a special and unpredictable year, I'll probably go back home and let's see."

Schwartzman next plays Canadian 12th seed Denis Shapovalov for a place in the final. Djokovic, meanwhile, let his frustrations spill over in a two-hour battle with his 97th-ranked German rival.

Two weeks after his US Open default for accidently hitting a line judge with a ball, the Serb struggled to contain his emotions, throwing his racket after a lost service game, with shouts of anger resounding in the silence of the empty Central Court. Djokovic was broken four times before advancing to his 11th semifinal in Rome.

In the women's competition, Simona Halep remained on track for a first Rome titles, advancing to the semi-finals after Kazakh rival Yulia Putintseva retired while trailing 6-2, 2-0.

Halep has twice finished runner-up in Rome in 2017 and 2018, and "really wants to win" the tournament.

"It's one of the biggest goals now," said Halep who is on a run of 12 consecutive victories after winning in Dubai in February and in Prague after the lockdown.

She will play Spaniard Garbine Muguruza, the ninth seed, for a place in the semifinals. Defending champion Karolina Pliskova, the second seed, will play fellow Czech Marketa Vondrousova.

Men: Quarters: Schwartzman (ARG x8) bt Nadal (ESP x2) 6-2, 7-5; Ruud (NOR) bt Berrettini (ITA x4) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5); Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Koepfer (GER) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; Shapovalov (CAN x12) bt Dimitrov (BUL x15) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. **Women:** Halep (ROM x1) bt Putintseva (KAZ) 6-2, 2-0 retired; Muguruza (ESP x9) bt Azarenka (BLR) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Vondrousova (CZE x12) bt Svitolina (UKR x4) 6-3, 6-0; Pliskova (CZE x2) bt Mertens (BEL x11) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

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பதவிகளுக்கான பொதுத் தேர்வு
2021
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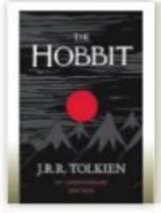


DAY'S DIARY

Book published

On this day in 1937, author JRR Tolkien's fantasy novel *The Hobbit* was first published in the United Kingdom

PLOT

The novel follows the adventures of the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, as he assists a group of dwarves to reclaim their homeland, and tries to claim a share of treasure guarded by the fearsome dragon Smaug

FIRST EDITION

The book was limited to only 1,500 copies. The first UK editions prominently included the dust jacket designed by Tolkien. It was done in a wrap-a-round style in black, green and blue

ILLUSTRATION

The first printing had no colour illustrations within the book. It instead had 10 black-and-white illustrations along with the two maps printed in red and black

Rachita Ram opts out of Dinesh Baboo's movie

PG 4

SHALOM, BENGALURU

Jonathan Zadka, the newly-appointed Consul General of Israel to South India, talks about staying in quarantine after arriving in the city last week, the quiet Jewish New Year celebration over the weekend, and all that he looks forward to in his new posting

● Vidya Iyengar

My earlier visits to India were brief, but I did enjoy the local attractions like some temples, and the cuisine
— Jonathan Zadka, Consul General of Israel to South India

If all was well with the world around us, Jonathan Zadka, the newly-appointed Consul General of Israel to South India, would have celebrated the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, over the weekend with family and friends. But being in quarantine after landing in Bengaluru from his last posting in China, the celebration of dipping apples into honey and eating pomegranate seeds, was a secluded one with his wife, Hila, and two children, Daniel and Keren. "We dip apples into honey which represents our wish for a sweet new year. Pomegranate is a highly recognisable object in Jewish tradition. The fruit supposedly consists of 613 seeds, the same as the number of commandment in the Torah – both represent the traditions symbolic of the Jewish New Year," he says, adding that it is a quiet celebration in Israel too, where they are entering a lockdown.

Zadka's only impressions of Bengaluru as yet are the glimpses he caught on his ride from the airport, and the "peaceful" surroundings he senses through the window of his home in Dollars Colony. Having been to Delhi and Mumbai for brief stints in 2016, he is open to all that he can experience during his term here. "As a diplomat, it's about sharing and engaging in the culture, heritage and history of the country we are in. The visits to India were brief, but I did enjoy the local attractions of some temples, and the cuisine," says Zadka who has served in Japan, Australia and China.

His career as a diplomat started in 2002, before which he was working as an analyst for the Israeli PM office and held a private sector consulting position.

Having arrived in India from Beijing where he acted as Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission since 2017, Zadka regrets the tension between India and China and hopes that issues are resolved in a peaceful manner with no need for further hostilities. "Israel shares an open and friendly relation with India as well as good and friendly relations with China. This is a good opportunity to wish for peace and friendship as we celebrate our New Year," says the qualified strategic/ organisational consultant. He received his MBA from Israel's Institute of Technology (Technion) and his B.A in international relations and political science from Hebrew University.

Zadka, who is in his 40s, takes over at a challenging time, having met his team only through video conferencing. Adjusting to the new normal of doing business with lack of face-to-face engagement, he tells us on a Zoom interaction that he is looking at the online route as an advantage. "I recently participated in a summit by CII where there were relevant speakers from across the world. In a way, the digital world is breaking barriers," he says, adding that they are now brainstorming innovative ways for the Bengaluru Tech Summit in November.

"The idea of a consulate general in Bangalore is to promote academic relations, create a business platform, emphasise digital health, look into water management and automotives. Our embassy in Delhi is working on a collaborative project with India to ease out the coronavirus testing process," he adds.

On a daily basis, Zadka has been receiving queries about when re-entry of flights to India will be permitted. Over the last few years, there's been much emphasis on tourism, which Zadka is confident will bounce back once the pandemic crisis is resolved. "With Israeli flights now being allowed to fly over Middle-Eastern countries, the trip duration will be shorter and smoother," he says.

In black and white

● Vidya Iyengar

Feeling that she has forgotten her mother's fragrance and the touch of her cool hands, photoartist Aparna Nori has made a diptych, a memory of her mother's favourite bloom, the rajnigandha (tuberose). "I wanted my work to have a multi-sensorial experience," she says about her work titled 'Memory is My Sixth Sense'. It has been made using the salt technique, a process dating back to the 1800s.

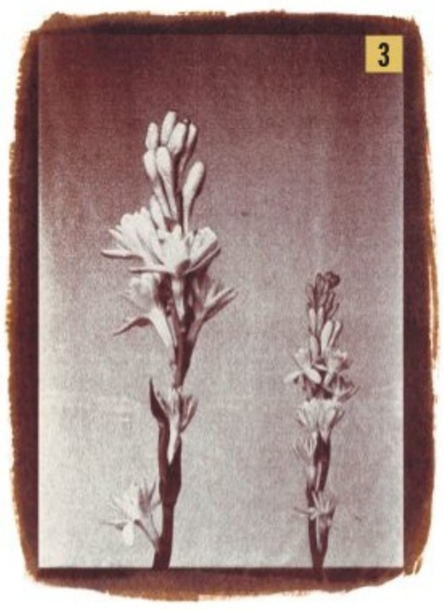
Nori, along with Indu Antony, Krishanu Chatterjee and Vivek Muthuramalingam has been working on this hands-on project through the lockdown. The collective is now exhibiting their works, 'Being in a State of Salax', at Kanike, their studio, which is complete with a dark room set up, on appointment basis.

Quite tired of looking at the digital screen, this long-drawn out process has been meditative, says Antony. Feeling a sense of resonance with abandoned photographs, she says, "I have been collecting images, especially of women, from various places. Salt prints have an ephemeral quality to them, they fade, they disappear in front of your eyes – like the abandoned people." She wanted to preserve them or their existence by stitching the edges of the photograph with her hair which eventually will be the only part of this work that will remain and the empty space to question our existence. "Each of us has expressed ourselves in different ways without restricting ourselves. From photographs to drawings, our visual language has been varied," Antony says.

During the lockdown, Muthuramalingam woke up every morning to the calls of the visiting birds in his mother's garden, that made him reminisce about his birding days. "I took to drawing and rendered the birds that remained in my memory, an exercise that offered me considerable solace," says Muthuramalingam, who as a part of his photographic documentation of the projects of Biome Environmental Solutions (a Bengaluru-based design firm with a focus on architecture, ecology and water), has created a series of salt prints for their forthcoming book. "Much like Biome's architectural creations, each of which is made considering a unique set of challenges – local materials, location, weather and client aspirations – the making of the salt prints considers a variety of parameters too. Quite often the prints don't necessarily turn out the way it was envisioned, yet yield a different, but surprisingly good result," he says.

With the digital world having broken barriers, they will do a virtual walk through of the show at the end of the week. Next up is a salt print workshop to teach the technique, scheduled in the next two weeks.

'Being in a State of Salax' is on until Sept. 25, at Kanike, Cooke Town, between 11am and 6pm. Visits by appointment. E-mail: kanikestudios@gmail.com



1) From left: Vivek Muthuramalingam, Aparna Nori, Indu Antony and Krishanu Chatterjee 2) 'Talaash' by Chatterjee 3) A part of Nori's work, 'Memory is my Sixth Sense'

KNOW HOW

The salted paper technique was created in the mid-1830s by English scientist and inventor Henry Fox Talbot. Acid-free paper is coated with salt and silver nitrate, which makes the paper photo sensitive. A negative is then imprinted through contact print. It involves multiple levels of washing, seven to be precise and no two prints look the same. The toning of prints being exhibited has been done with gold chloride.

Bringing cheer, one school at a time

● Express Features

Schools may be closed due to the pandemic but that's not stopping Rotary Bangalore Junction from its mission. The group is trying to revamp government schools in rural Karnataka into "happy schools" in which children are exposed to better coaching, and better facilities and infrastructure, like cleanliness, drinking water, libraries, clean toilets, play areas, greenery, etc.

The group aims to raise ₹15 lakh for this plan, of which they have attained 50 per cent. "Funds raised through crowdfunding will be used to provide infrastructure like hand washing stations, water filters and e-learning kits," says **A Suresh**, chairman of the fundraising committee.

Out of the 100 schools selected, the first one – Government Lower Primary School, Horamavu – has been revamped, and will be inaugurated on Oct. 2. According to Suresh, the cost to equip one school is ₹70,000. The e-learning kit includes a 43-inch Smart TV with built-in Android and WiFi, which is loaded with the content as per the prescribed syllabus.

The time to upgrade the schools is now, says Suresh, adding, "Once the schools reopen, the students can return to a safer and more interesting environment."

On track: Women's woes and more

● Simran Ahuja

A scene from the play

A socialite, a house help, a eunuch, a corporate professional, a middle-aged woman... What do you get when women from different walks of life get stuck together in the same train compartment? An upcoming play called *Ladies Compartment*, brought by Being Productions, pictures just that. "Initially, the women feel too inhibited to interact with each other. But as time goes on, they open up and realise that everyone has their own problems – like parenting issues, loneliness, finances, societal pressures about divorce, etc. It's all about how you deal with it," says actor Usha Rao, who is also in charge of the production. The play was written by Aarti Pandey and Dr Pooja Pandey Tripathi, who both grew up in Delhi. It has been directed by Tripathi.

While the play premiered in 2017, Rao believes it's as relevant today as well, since the pandemic has brought out personal problems, with everyone feeling stuck at some level. "But I've also seen positive changes, like focus on health. In a way, the play also highlights that. Yes, problems exist. But how do we deal with them and find happiness?," she says.

The show can be viewed online on Sept. 27. "We had to record it in an empty auditorium at Alliance Française. It was odd but we had to do it," says Rao, who plays the role of the socialite.

Tickets available on skillboxes.com

BREAKING BARRIERS

Teenager unites world with a song, in 14 languages

● Kannalmozhi Kabilan

In a world that is producing child prodigies by the minute, it's almost no surprise that a 16-year-old moonlights as a teenager while keeping up his musician identity. But does it make you pause when you find out that his recent work made it to three books of records? Are you sitting up in your chair as you read that it was the result of 7,500 hours of labour with 12 artistes from across the world? Have you peeled your glasses off your face in disbelief that with lyrics in 14 languages, it tops the multilingual chart in a clean sweep? Well, meet Ankith Gupta.

The mammoth project was the result of a lofty goal of taking Indian music to the global audience and bringing the international counterparts back home, says the Hip-Hop artiste, a Class-12 student at Sishya in Chennai. Sifting through the list of artistes he wanted to work with, it seemed to make more sense to bring them all together for one collaborative piece. Then, the theme of music having no language just presented itself. "Not everyone hearing the song would be a linguist to appreciate the 14 languages. I constructed the theme to make sure that the person will enjoy the song as a song and not for its languages," he says.

The single, titled 7500, to mark the amount of work that went into it, was released on YouTube, and other music platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, Google Play Music and JioSaavn on Wednesday. It has bagged a place in Asia Book of Records, Indian Book of Records and Guinness World Records for the most number of languages in one song. The track features lyrics in Kannada, English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bangla, Arabic, German, Italian, Swedish, Spanish, Nepali, and Jamaican. That the song ends with verses in Telugu has surprised and delighted many, says Ankith. He credits Subramaniya Bharathiyar for the result. "The poet Bharathiyar has always called Telugu as 'sundara Telugu'. In that language, every word ends with a vowel and sounds very lovely. I wanted the song to end with a beautiful chant and wanted a beautiful language for it. That's when I came across Bharthiyar's phrase about Telugu and so I incorporated it," he narrates, adding that his mother tongue is Telugu too.

Ankith worked with regional artistes VAR!N, Almukhtar, Swat, Obeka, Loud Silence (Hindi and Bangla), Ilon (Italian and Jamaican), Yaaru, Filip Winther, Young S.C.O, King Sinister, Lay G and BFAB to make the song happen. Yet, through the making, the musicians had no idea what was in store. "I only told each artiste that 'there will be more languages incorporated'. They really didn't know what was happening. Once the song was released, they were super surprised about what I had done," shares Ankith.

The youngster, who already has a range of work on music platforms, has grander goals. He wants to show the world the wealth of the untapped Hip-Hop talent that India has to offer. "India has a number of artistes but most of them are focussed on mainstream music. They are not focussing on the underground artistes who haven't had a chance. If you see India with all the underground artistes, it will be on top of the Hip-Hop map. My goal is to make as many songs and get the heat map of Hip-Hop songs made in India high. It's a long process but I'm trying my best," he says. Between online classes and pursuit of higher education, he plans to release new content every month. So look out for Ankith Gupta's work; you may never know what surprises you might land.

I constructed the theme to make sure that the listener will enjoy the song as a song and not for its languages
— Ankith Gupta, Hip-Hop artiste

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

CREAMY TANDOORI PASTA

INGREDIENTS

- **Milk:** 250 ml ■ **Chilli flakes**
- **Pasta (any shape):** 200 g
- **Garlic:** 4 pods ■ **Butter:** 1 tbsp
- **Coriander leaves:** finely chopped
- **Wheat flour:** 1.5 tbsp ■ **Olive/ refined oil** ■ **Cheese** ■ **Oregano**

For Tandoori powder

- **Kashmiri chilli powder:** 2 tbsp
- **Garam masala:** 1/2 tbsp
- **Dhaniya powder:** 1 tbsp
- **Jeera powder:** 1 tbsp
- **Amchur:** 1 tbsp ■ **Black pepper**
- **Black salt:** 1/2 tbsp
- **Kasuri methi:** 1 tbsp

INGREDIENTS

■ Mix all the ingredients for the tandoori powder. ■ Boil pasta with a tablespoon of salt. Strain, add oil and pepper. ■ In a pan, add butter and oil. Saute garlic until it turns brown. ■ Add wheat flour and cook on low flame for 4 minutes. ■ Add milk gradually and stir continuously. ■ When the sauce turns creamy, add salt, oregano, chilli flakes, cheese and 1.5 tbsp of tandoori powder ■ Cook on low flame for 3 minutes before adding pasta and salt. ■ Garnish with coriander leaves. You may add sauted vegetables in the end. **– RK Srividya, Chennai**

TWEET OF THE DAY

INDIAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER (TERPSIPHONE PARADISI)

- Native to the Indian subcontinent, Central Asia and Myanmar
- The males, with long central tail feathers, have black and rufous plummage, or black and white plummage. The females have shorter tails and only black and rufous plummage.
- The adult's central tail feathers can grow up to 30 cm.
- The bird has a characteristic loud shriek for a call.
- Both males and females take part in the process of nesting and caring for the younglings.

Photo: Sushmitha Ramakrishnan

BRIGHT SPOT

SUNFLOWERS FOR SMILES

One Wisconsin man has been very busy during the pandemic. He's planted two million sunflowers to give joy to others. Guests at Thompson Strawberry Farm pay $25 per car group, and are invited to cut and take a dozen of the bright flowers home once they're done wandering through the fields, taking pictures, and having a good time in the late summer sun. Scott Thompson is a fourth-generation berry farmer based in Bristol, Kenosha County. He noticed that this year people have been coming from Milwaukee, from Chicago, and everywhere in-between. Thompson and his family are welcoming of everyone, including budding Instagrammers and professional photographers. In fact, they've planted fields of short sunflowers precisely because "it makes for pretty awesome pictures." For Thompson, the goal is simply for people to enjoy a nice day in the country and bring home something beautiful.

Source: goodnewsnetwork.org

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Available on: Android

FIT BIT

EKA PADA RAJAKAPOTASANA-I (ONE-LEGGED KING PIGEON POSE-I)

In Sanskrit, 'eka' means 'one', 'pada' means 'foot' or 'leg', 'raja' means 'king', 'kapota' means 'pigeon' and 'asana' means 'pose'. It stimulating the Svadisthana (sacral) chakra allowing one to enliven their sensory experiences and increase their sense of vitality. The importance of control and self-awareness in this asana makes it an ideal preparatory pose for pranayama. This and the other variations of pigeon pose offer a powerful form of emotional release. Opening the hips has been linked to the release of stress, anxiety and negative energies.

STEPS

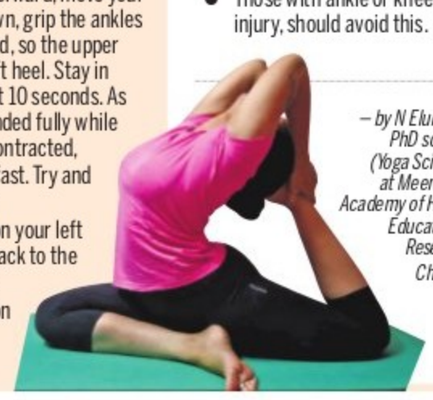
- Sit with the legs stretched in front.
- Bend your right knee and place the right foot on the floor, right heel touching the left groin. Keep your right knee on the floor.
- Now, take your left leg back and rest it entirely straight on the floor. The front of your left thigh, knee and shin and the upper part of the toes should touch the floor.
- Place your palms on your waist, push your chest forward, stretch your neck, bend your head as far back as possible and balance for sometime in this pose.
- Rest your hands on the floor, bend your left knee and lift your left foot near the head. Your left leg, from the knee to the ankle, should be perpendicular. Tighten the muscles of your left thigh.
- Exhale, take your right arm over your head and grip the left foot. Take a few breaths. Exhale and catch your left foot with the left hand. Rest your head against the left foot.
- Push your chest forward, move your hands further down, grip the ankles and lower the head, so the upper lip touches the left heel. Stay in the pose for about 10 seconds. As the chest is expanded fully while the abdomen is contracted, breathing will be fast. Try and breathe normally.
- Release the grip on your left ankle and come back to the original position.
- Repeat the pose on the other side.

BENEFITS

- Opens hip joint.
- Lengthens hip flexor.
- Stretches thighs, glutes and piriformis muscles.
- Extends groin and psoas.
- Helps reduce urinary disorder.
- Stimulates internal organs.
- Increases hip flexibility.
- Improves posture, alignment and overall suppleness.
- Lessens or alleviates sciatic pain.
- Reduces lower back pain and stiffness.
- Releases negative feelings and undesirable energy stored in your system.

LIMITATIONS

- If you have had a hip replacement or are currently facing hip injury, avoid it.
- Pregnant women and those trying to conceive must avoid.
- Those with ankle or knee injury, should avoid this.



– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

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Green Dreamer with Kamea Chayne is a podcast and multimedia journal for those who are yearning to live with vitality and fulfillment and who are dreaming of a thriving planet to call home. The conversations feature changemakers including Adrian Grenier of Lonely Whale Foundation, Bea Johnson, zero waste pioneer...and more.

- On Apple Podcast

THE PEOPLE'S PHARMACY

Pharmacologist Joe Graedon and medical anthropologist Terry Graedon talk to leading experts to discuss their research on issues relating to drugs, herbs, home remedies, vitamins and related health topics.

- On Apple Podcast

THE LAZY GENIUS PODCAST

The Lazy Genius Podcast is here to help you be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't. From laundry to cooking chicken to making new friends, author Kendra Adachi is here to welcome you into an easier way.

- On Stitcher

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

MUNGARU MALE 2

Preetham, the son of Suryakanth, a millionaire, easily gets bored when it comes to relationships. He understands love after he meets Nandini.

- Cast: Ganesh, Neha Shetty, V. Ravichandran

MR. AND MRS. RAMACHARI

Ramachari and Divya fall in love after the former saves her from a group of bullies in their college. However, they part ways when Divya begins to question his behaviour, trust and way of life.

- Cast: Yash, Radhika Pandit

KANDA NAAL MUDHAL

Two youngsters meet in a marriage hall and fight with each other and thereafter every-time they meet they end up fighting with each other. But there comes a time when this animosity turns to love.

- Cast: Prasanna, Laila, Karthik Kumar, Regina Cassandra

PUDHAYAL

Madhu steals a treasure map during an archaeological expedition and sends it to a gang. However, Swapna intercepts the map and decides to find the treasure on her own.

- Cast: Arvind Swamy, Sakshi Shivanand, Mammootty

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 IF MATTER FALLS DOWN, DOES ANTIMATTER FALL UP? BY CHLOÉ MALBRUNOT

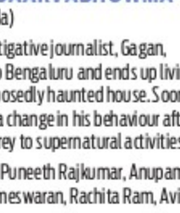
Like positive and negative, or debit and credit, matter and antimatter are equal and opposite. So if matter falls down, does antimatter fall up? Chloé Malbrunot investigates that question by placing two atoms – one made of matter, and the other antimatter – in the cockpit of a plane, ready to jump. What do you think will happen?

2 CAN YOU SOLVE THE UNSTOPPABLE BLOB RIDDLE? BY DAN FINKEL

A shooting star crashes onto Earth and a hideous blob emerges. It's unstoppable: no matter what you throw at it, it re-grows and continues its rampage. The only way to save the planet is to cut the blob into precise acute triangles while it sleeps, rendering it inert. Can you stop it from destroying the planet? Dan Finkel shows how.

3 THE DARK HISTORY OF IQ TESTS BY STEFAN C DOMBROWSKI

In 1905, psychologists designed a test for children who were struggling in school in France. It formed the basis of the modern IQ test. So how do IQ tests work, and are they a true reflection of intelligence? Stefan C. Dombrowski explores how the tests have been used through history.



4 WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE CHANGE BY JACQUELINE NOVOGRATZ

Sharing stories from her pioneering career dedicated to tackling poverty, Jacqueline Novogratz offers three principles to spark and sustain a moral revolution. Learn how you can commit (or recommit) to creating big, positive change in your lifetime – and give back more to the world than you take from it.

5 HOW TO WIN AN ARGUMENT BY NEAL KATYAL

With stories of some of the most impactful cases he's argued before the Court, US Supreme Court litigator Neal Katyal shows why the key to crafting a persuasive and successful argument lies in human connection, empathy and faith in the power of your ideas.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

MAYABAZAR 2016 (Kannada)

An honest policeman, a conman and a hopeless romantic form an unusual team during the days of demonetisation to pull off a scam that quickly goes haywire.

- Cast: Raj B. Shetty, Vasishta Simha, Prakash Raj
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

GIPPI (Hindi)

Gippi, an overweight teenager, struggles to handle the physical and social changes that come with her age. Soon, she learns to let go of her insecurities and love herself for who she is.

- Cast: Riya Vij, Taaha Shah, Divya Dutta, Raqesh Bapat
- Watch on: Netflix

2 COUNTRIES (Malayalam)

Ullas, a procrastinator, makes money by deceiving and conning people. His life takes a turn when he decides to marry Laya, a wealthy woman, who is settled in Canada.

- Cast: Dileep, Mamtha Mohandas, Aju Varghese
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

COCKTAIL (Tamil)

Four close friends attempting to get rid of an unknown corpse unwittingly get entangled in a tricky situation involving an idol theft and a Cockatiel.

- Cast: Yogi Babu, Sayaji Shinde, Anjali, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar
- Watch on: Zee5

SALALAH MOBILES (Malayalam)

Afzal is happy after his uncle helps him to set up his mobile shop. However, things take an unexpected turn when Azhagarsamy gifts him a virus-infected mobile application.

- Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Nazriya Nazim, Geetha, Siddique
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

PARMANU (Hindi)

IAS officer Ashwat is tasked to lead an operation to develop and test nuclear weapons but must ensure that American intelligence agencies do not learn about it.

- Cast: John Abraham, Diana Penty, Boman Irani, Anuja Sathe
- Watch on: Netflix

NATASAARVABHOWMA (Kannada)

An investigative journalist, Gagan, moves to Bengaluru and ends up living in a supposedly haunted house. Soon, he realises a change in his behaviour after falling prey to supernatural activities.

- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Anupama Parameswaran, Rachita Ram, Avika Gor
- Watch on: Zee5
- Subscription: ₹ 99 per month

ENGLISH

THE SOCIAL DILEMMA

Tech experts sound the alarm on the dangerous human impact of social networking.

- Watch on: Netflix

BLOODSHOT

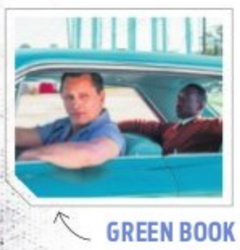
After he and his wife are murdered, marine Ray Garrison is resurrected by a team of scientists. Enhanced with nanotechnology, he becomes a superhuman, biotech killing machine – Bloodshot. As Ray first trains with fellow super-soldiers, he cannot recall anything from his former life. But when his memories flood back and he remembers the man that killed both him and his wife, he breaks out of the facility to get revenge, only to discover that there's more to the conspiracy than he thought.

- Cast: Vin Diesel, Eiza González, Sam Heughan, Guy Pearce, Lamorne Morris
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

1917

During World War I, two British soldiers – Lance Cpl. Schofield and Lance Cpl. Blake – receive seemingly impossible orders. In a race against time, they must cross over into enemy territory to deliver a message that could save 1,600 of their fellow comrades – including Blake's own brother.

- Cast: George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman, Richard Madden, Benedict Cumberbatch, Andrew Scott
- Watch on: Sony LIV



GREEN BOOK

Amid rampant racism in the 1960s southern America, an African-American pianist hires an Italian-American bouncer to drive him through his venues. They come closer in the course of their journey.

- Cast: Mahershala Ali, Viggo Mortensen, Linda Cardellini
- Watch on: Sony LIV

SUBSCRIPTION

Amazon Prime: ₹ 129 per month
Sony LIV: ₹ 229 per month
Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year
Zee5: ₹ 99 per month

TASTE OF HOME

From Karnataka's kodbale to Rajasthan's bhujia, snacks from across the country are now available on this new digital platform

Express Features

Indian snacks are an integral part of our day-to day meals. For those staying away from home, these serve a reminder of their childhood favourites. During the lockdown, many who couldn't go back home, also had no access to their favourite snacks. This craving turned into a 'eureka moment' for Muskaan Sancheti and Raghav Jhawar, who started The State Plate, an e-commerce platform to sell authentic dry snacks from states across India. From Karnataka's kodbale, to Rajasthan's Bhujia, and Indore's Laung Sev, the duo has been making sure that these are home-delivered within three days.

The co-founders, whose family roots are in Rajasthan, hit upon the idea sometime in June, realising the market for snacks was unorganised. "Snacks are a staple in our culture, but during the lockdown, our supplier wasn't operational. Many vendors who were selling snacks were passing off leftover stocks and had hiked prices drastically," says Sancheti. When she brought up this issue with Jhawar, who is currently in Kolkata, they realised there was a large scope for organising this business.

The 21-year olds, who were classmates at Shri Ram College of Commerce in Delhi, started this business finding that many were stranded far away from their hometowns during the lockdown. "People usually stock up on annual stock of snacks, which is usually done in summer. But this year, that was not possible,"says Sancheti, adding that they started their market research in June and were ready to launch in July. The bootstrapped venture was started with initial investment coming from their savings and college internships. They were later funded by their parents.

Like any other venture, they too faced initial hiccups. "We are right now storing around 60 per cent of the snacks that are listed. The rest are procured from the vendor. During the lockdown, we faced logistic and transport issues, and since many factories were closed, they had only leftover stocks. Even getting local snacks from Chickpet was a challenge since it was a contaminated zone," says Sancheti, adding that currently they functioning on their are own delivery system rather than tying up with any other company. While they are based in Bengaluru, they plan to take their business across India in due time.

Raghav Jhawar and Muskaan Sancheti

> **Snacks are a staple in our culture, but during the lockdown, procuring them became a challenge**
> —**Muskaan Sancheti,** co-founder, The Slate Plate

Coming together for peace

Express Features

If each of us has peace within our hearts, the world will be at peace. It is this thought that prompted Heartfulness Institute, which has centres in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, to organise a virtual event for International Day of Peace (Sept. 21). To commemorate the occasion, Heartfulness Institute, in partnership with United Nations Information Centre, Global Citizens India, Give India, Spirit of Humanity Forum, the Fetzer Institute, Sewa International, Gandhi Foundation and other such organisations, aims to bring humanity together through a guided meditation session to promote peace. "If we connect our peace individually, we can aim for peace on a global level," Harpreet Bhan, member of global programme committee at the institute, tells *CE*.

The initiative will take place through two pre-recorded events, to be broadcast in 100 countries, which go live at 8pm and 9pm local time, respectively. The former is called 'Celebrate Peace' and will include music by Pandit Hari Prasad Chourasia, Shashank Subramanyam and Mike Hertig; director-actor **Shekhar Kapur** in conversation with Kamlesh D Patel, aka Daaji, guide of Heartfulness Institute; author Deepak Chopra; Brahmakumari Sister Shivani; biologist Bruce Lipton; author Sharon Salzberg; and athlete Marta Bassino, among others.

The second part of the event, 'Create Peace', includes an hour-long guided meditation led by Daaji. "Since it goes live at 9pm local time, it means that all through 24 hours, someone somewhere would be meditating for world peace. We wanted to create a day-long chain," explains Bhan. In a statement, Daaji said, "We will all be meditating together, for peace, harmony and serenity to engulf this planet."

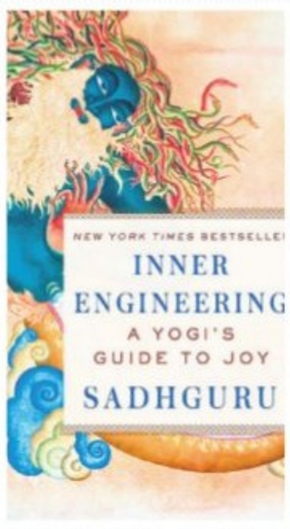
Since the event is open to participation on a global level, the organisers hope to have a far-reaching impact. "Millions meditating for world peace acts as a huge force multiplier. It can have huge positive ramifications and a major impact on the vibrations sent out," says Bhan.

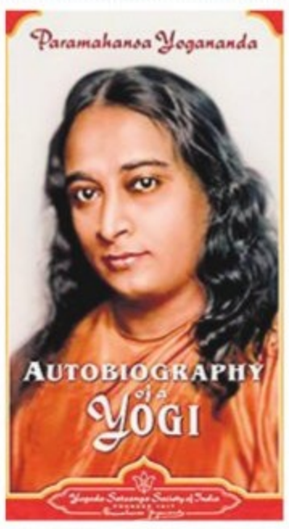
"When we all come together for our love for the planet, for our love for each other, and for our love for humanity, and together we create peace, we are going to take that first step towards healing our world," Sister Shivani said in a statement.

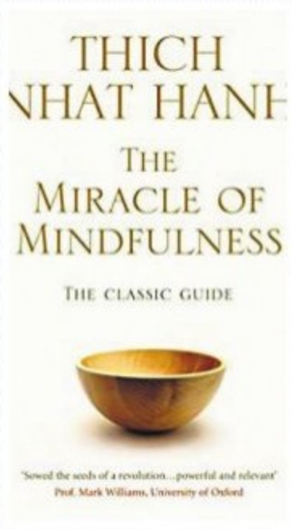
> **We will all be meditating together, for peace, harmony and serenity to engulf this planet**
> —**Kamlesh D Patel, aka Daaji,** guide of Heartfulness Institute

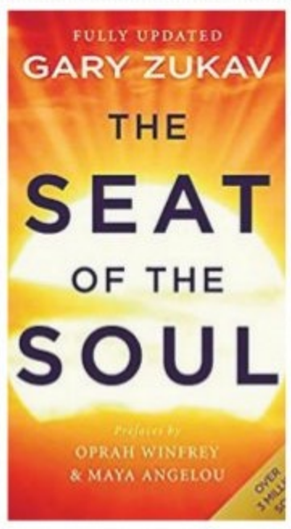
Paying a visit

Sunil Chhetri sure had a bittersweet Sunday morning. The footballer posted a picture of him and Bengaluru FC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu outside Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium. The two posed with their cycles and helmets as they paid one last visit to their "home" before they adopt a new one for the season ahead. Chhetri captioned his post, "Couldn't think of a better place and way to start our Sunday. Hope all of you have a good one." Sandhu too shared a similar photograph on his feed and said, "I guess this was the only visit that we'll be paying to the Fortress this season, trust me I was playing catch up the whole time with the fittest Indian Footballer @chetri_sunil11."









Matters of the mind

The pandemic has seen a surge in people who, in the face of fear, have become open to talking about faith and spirituality. In 75 countries in the month of March 2020, internet searches related to prayer skyrocketed to their highest levels in five years. Probably, Covid-19 has unintentionally created a massive spiritual awakening in mankind. As we are unable to venture outside, we have been forced to look inside ourselves. I have personally read (and listened to) more books on spirituality than ever before.

There is a distinction between religion and spirituality. While religion is a specific set of beliefs and practices shared by a community, spirituality is more of an individual search for purpose and meaning. One of the most popular books on spirituality is *Autobiography of a Yogi*, the autobiography of Paramahansa Yogananda first published in 1946. An introduction to the methods of attaining God-realisation, the book is acclaimed as a spiritual classic and has been in print for 70 years and translated into over 50 languages. This was the book Steve Jobs gave to family and friends to be read at his memorial service in Stanford because it had a huge influence on his life.

Apprenticed to a Himalayan Master is the bestselling autobiography of Sri M of Madanapalle. Sri M is a true 'modern mystic'. Born in a Muslim family, he became a yogi in the Himalayas, got married, raised a family, and founded two successful schools. He neither offers namaz five times a day nor prays at any temple. But he can recite texts from the Quran and the Bhagavad Gita with equal command. He teaches Vedanta and Kriya Yoga and is a guru to thousands across the world.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is one of the most popular gurus of the current generation. His Isha Foundation has thousands of volunteers and his talks are followed by millions around the world. I was able to listen to his book Inner Engineering: *A Yogi's Guide of Joy* on audible. In his revolutionary book, Sadhguru distils his own experiences with spirituality and introduces the concept of inner engineering, a practice that serves to align the mind and the body with energies around and within.

Jiddu Krishnamurti was a unique philosopher in that he negated the aura and the authority that goes with being a guru. Of all his books, *Krishnamurti's Notebook* is one of the few that he wrote himself (others are mostly collections of his talks or compilations of texts from his talks). Something that Krishnamurti required us to do, and which I found very relevant, was to inquire about religion without aiming for an outcome. By sitting and emptying the mind of all judgement of the surroundings and allowing oneself to be open to any and all truths, one is then able to see things as they truly are.

Of the various spiritual books by non-Indians, I have loved *The Miracle of Mindfulness* by Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Seat of the Soul* by Gary Zukav, *The Secret* by Rhonda Byre, *Siddharta* by Hermann Hesse and *Book of Mercy* by Leonard Cohen.

When it comes to spiritual books, it helps to find that one book that connects with you and to read it daily. Every time you read it, you will glean insights from it. A piece of advice: read the book slowly, internalise it, and let it live with you for some time. And don't be surprised if you become more confused after you read them! The important thing is to gather all your energies to seek and to find.

(The author is a technologist based in Silicon Valley, who is gently mad about books)

CITY READ

Store inaugurated

Girias inaugurated its 87th store at Sahakarnagar. The event saw Manjunath Babu, corporator of ward no 7, as the guest of honour. Srinivasaiah, block president, directors of Giriaj, P L Giria, Naveen Giria, Praveen Giria, Manish Giria, and Sahil Giria were present.

Initiative to support community

QuEST Global, a product engineering firm, and NASSCOM Foundation launched Resurgent Communities, a year-long initiative to provide digital and entrepreneurship skills and job opportunities to those who have lost livelihood due to Covid-19. While the first phase will see distribution of ration kits to over 400 families, the second phase will provide education to schoolchildren and the third will make women financially independent. Over 2,000 residents of Mithun Reddy Layout at Bellandur will get support.

M'app'ing the digital life

MENAKA RAMAN

The writer's philosophy is: if there's no blood, don't call me

The notifications come to my phone:

Geography: Population Density classwork uploaded.

Maths: Ratio and Proportion assignment due today.

English: Literature character sketch not submitted.

History: Watch this video on the reformation and take this quiz.

On and on and on.

For not one, but two children.

Last week, as I watched the unsettling Netflix documentary The Social Dilemma, I removed all app notifications on my phone. All apps but one. The online learning app used by my sons' school.

You see, pre-pandemic, school assignments and homework were a fairly nebulous thing in our home. We knew homework was assigned regularly by teachers, who even shared a timetable so that we knew which days of the week work was assigned and when it was due for submission. Some of this work was even brought home, albeit crumpled and at the bottom of a school bag with some festering, mouldy orange peel attached to it.

By middle school, the school diary was no longer being used to note assignments as it was originally intended for, but filled with anime doodles instead. I would invariably come to know of assignments and projects through that other wonderful tech oracle, WhatsApp. And when I would ask my child, he would gaze into the distance like a seer and say 'Ah yes!' and then go back to whatever he was doing.

It was frustrating to say the least.

I seemed to constantly be trying to find out about this worksheet and that report. I would long for everything to be online in one place where we could access it and I wouldn't have to depend on a befuddled pre-teen mind.

Be careful what you wish for.

Online school has given me all that my heart desired. Neatly organised folders, worksheets uploaded so that they cannot possibly get lost in a bag covered in mouldy snacks, assignments graded and turned in with comments for improvement – everything my foolish heart wanted is now here.

Kill me now.

You see, ignorance truly is bliss in some cases. Whereas before, we could just shrug our shoulders and say oh well, we didn't know about it, now we cannot. It is there. Right in front of my eyes. On my phone.

Express illustration

I am no longer addicted to Instagram reels of operatic dogs, but Google Classroom. The app's almost Pavlovian notification tring doesn't make me hungry, but tense. My shoulders hunch, I feel a prickle at the back of my neck and I think 'Oh God! What is it now!'

A sensible person would turn the notifications off, or uninstall this app from their phone and let their children deal with it. But there's a pandemic on, and sense and reason have left the building. In my mind, this is our chance to make up for years of slack schoolwork submissions and hit it out of the park. Of course, there is no 'we'. My children are more than happy to carry on as before. Homework is homework – paper or padlet, and is meant to be ignored.

I, on the other hand, take homework personally and as a reflection on my parenting skills. I know, I'm an idiot.

As I type this out, there are three classroom notifications begging to be opened.

Should I or shouldn't I?

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'Richie will bring in the flavour of the character I played in Ulidavaru Kandanthe'

Rakshit Shetty

• A Sharadhaa

Even as he faces the pandemic situation, Rakshit Shetty has been moving forward with a singular focus on cinema. Rakshit, who is looking forward to resuming shooting for Kiranraj's *777 Charlie* from the first week of October 1st week, has now trained his focus on the script of *Richie*.

Rakshit is presently in Goa fine-tuning the script for the film, which will be directed by PK Rahul. The *Kirik Party* star has chosen to work out of Goa to get a feel of the place where the film is set in.

"*Richie* will be one of my next projects to get on floors, for which we have fine tuning the script. The script demands locations of Mangaluru, Udupi, Mumbai and a small portion of the film is set in Goa. I am aware of Mangaluru, Udupi. But Goa is a place, I haven't seen so much. So I thought I would have a look at the place, and it helps me in the writing," says Rakshit.

Richi is a iconic character portrayed by Rakshit in his earlier film, *Ulidavaru Kandanthe,* and the spinoff has piqued the curiosity in Sandalwood. "I don't want to reveal too much about the story and the role. But all I can say is that *Richie* will bring in the flavour of the character I played in *Ulidavaru Kandanthe,* and this story, which I am currently working on, will have a connect to the neo-noir crime drama, " he says.

Rahul, who worked as an associate director in *Ulidavaru Kandanthe,* is signed on as the director of film, which will be bankrolled by Pushkar Mallikarjunaiah an Rakshit Shetty.

A still from *Ulidavaru Kandanthe*

Dhananjay, Rachita Ram begin shoot for director S Ravindrannath's new film

• CE Features

Dhananjay and Rachita Ram are currently soaking in the monsoon spirit. The duo has started shooting for their upcoming romantic drama, helmed by *Pushkapaka Vimana* director S Ravidnranath, in the coastal region of Kundapura. The team, which began shooting on Sept. 19, has planned the first schedule over 15 days. The film is being made under the banner of Vikyath Chitra, and it will have the lead actors collaborating for the first time. They will be seen in a retro backdrop, and are said to be playing roles in which they have not been seen before. The team has completed a photo shoot. But the makers are yet to officially reveal the film's title.

Dhananjay, who is awaiting the release of *Yuvarathnaa* and *Pogaru,* is left with the shooting of the climax portion for *Badava Rascal*, which the team plans to complete in the first week of October. The actor is all set to begin to the shoot for Rohit Padaki's *Rathnan Prapancha*, and is simultaneously preparing to play the role of MP Jayaraj in the film titled *Head Bush*.

The actor has decided to opt out of the film owing to date issues

RACHITA RAM EXITS FROM DINESH BABOO'S 50TH FILM *KASTURI MAHAL*

Rachita Ram

Dinesh Baboo

Dhananjay

• CE Features

Dinesh Baboo, the director of films like *Suprabatha, Amrutha Varshini, Laali, Nishyabda,* and *Abhi,* announced his 50th film with Rachita Ram. First titled as *Kasturi Nivasa*, the name was later changed to *Kasturi Mahal*. Now, there is yet another major change in this project. The lead heroine Rachita Ram has decided to walk out of the film due to date issues.

The film was launched in August in a grand manner, and the actor's exit from the project has turned out to be a big surprise. The director himself confirmed the news with us. "We were all prepared to begin the shoot from October 5, and we just received the news about Rachita's exit. I am on the hunt for a replacement, and I hope to finalise a new female lead before we begin the shoot," says Dinesh.

We received confirmation about the development from Rachita Ram too. "I have been facing date issues, and after much thought, I decided to walk out of the film before the team begins the shoot. I didn't want to jeopardise the project in any way. I expressed the same to the film's producer," she says.

Rachita, who is looking forward to the release of *100, Ek Love Ya,* and her Telugu debut *Super Machi,* has a slew of projects in hand including *Veeram, April, Lilly,* a film with director S Ravindranath, and another with director Mayuraa Raghavendra.

Kasturi Mahal, produced by Ravish RC and Reuben Raj, will have PKH Dass handling the cinematography and the music will be scored by Gumineni Vijay.

Dinesh Baboo has come up with a paranormal thriller this time, based on personal experience. Shruti Prakash and Skanda are part of the cast.

ACTOR PAYAL GOSH accuses Anurag Kashyap of sexual harassment

• CE Features

A twitter dispute broke out when Bollywood Actor Payal Gosh accused Anurag Kashyap of sexual harassment in a tweet on Saturday evening. While actors like Kangana Ranaut displayed support for Gosh and tweeted urging the authorities to take legal action against Kashyap, various renowned personalities in the industry stood with the director and tweeted praising his courage and hailing how reliable and radical Kashyap has been in his profession.

Payal Gosh made her accusations in an interview for ABN Telugu and retweeting the channel's post of her video on Twitter, she tagged the accounts of the Office of Prime Minister of India and Narendra Modi and requested them to take action and reveal the dark side of the filmmaker, she stated that her security was at risk and called out for help.

Kangana Ranaut retweeted Gosh's tweet stating 'Every Voice Matters' and included the hashtags #MeToo and #ArrestAnuragKashyap. On Sunday, actor Tapsee Pannu who has worked with Anurag Kashyap in his 2018 film *Manmarziyaan* supported the director through an Instagram post where she claimed that Kashyap was one of the biggest feminists she had known who strives to create powerful and significant women in his films.

In a thread of tweets in Hindi, the director denied the charges levelled against him and dismissed them as 'baseless'.

Kashyap wrote, "In accusing me you have tried to rope in my artistes and the Bachchan family but have failed. Madam, I have been married twice, if that is my crime, I accept it, and I have loved a lot, I accept that too. Whether it was my first wife or the second, or any other lover, or the many actresses I have worked with, or that team of girls and women who has always been working with me, or the many women who I met in private or in public".

He further added, "I do not engage in such behaviour or tolerate it. We shall see whatever happens. One can see in your video how much of it is truth and how much of it isn't. Blessings and love to you. Apologies for answering your English with my Hindi. There will be many more attacks. This is just the start. I have received many calls asking me to shut up and not say a word. I am aware that I have no clue yet where all the attacks are going to come from. I am waiting".

Payal Ghosh

Anurag Kashyap

Strong female characters are being written after a long time: Rukhsar Rehman

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The technical slickness of *Gone Game*, a recent lockdown thriller directed by Nikhil Bhat, has been widely praised. Streaming on Voot Select, the four-part series was shot entirely during the lockdown, using minimal set-ups from the actors' homes. Sahil Gujral (Varun Mathur) is presumed dead after checking into a Covid hospital. While the family reels from his death, his sister, Amara (Shweta Tripathi), is unconvinced. Could a deeper mystery be afoot?

Given the youngness of the primary cast, it's touching to see Sanjay Kapoor and Rukhsar Rehman, two actors who started out in the 90s, anchor the show as the tech-savvy Mr and Mrs Gujral. Rukhsar, who made her debut at 17 in *Yaad Rakhegi Duniya*, has worked across mediums over the last three decades. *Gone Game is* her first web-series after a string of film and TV appearances.

"I was apprehensive about shooting from home," Rukhsar shares. "However, my husband and daughter convinced me to take the plunge. It was a taxing process, but we had a lot of fun."

With the mystery plot at its centre, *Gone Game* highlights the myriad anxieties of the lockdown period. There's a family cracking at the seams in isolation. Amara, who's stuck in Bangalore, is wary of enhanced government surveillance. We also get a glimpse of the migrant crisis and the murk surrounding public healthcare. "It is a novel concept," Rukhsar gushes. "I was fascinated by the story of a dysfunctional family with the lockdown as the backdrop. Things are not rosy between my character, Suneeta, and her husband. There's also the strained relationship between Amara and her father. Although we never met each other, when I saw the show, I could feel this was a real family."

Rukhsar Rehman

Last year, Rukhsar essayed an Indian agent stationed in Pakistan in *Uri: The Surgical Strike*. She was also part of the mystery-thriller, The Body, on Netflix. The actor shares she was working on multiple projects before the pandemic struck.

"I'm happy that after a long time, strong female characters are being written. The web space has certainly enabled this change. There's a lot more variety in terms of genres and audience preferences," says Rukhsar, who will next be seen in the web show Dhanbad. There's also a major Bollywood project to be announced soon, she adds.

Family Pack shooting to start today

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The shooting for *Family Pack,* bankrolled by Puneeth Rajkumar's PRK Productions, begins on Sept. 21. The film brings together the director-actor duo of Arjun Kumar and Likith Shetty together again after *Sankasta Kara Ganapathi*. This time, the two are teaming up for a comedy entertainer, which features Amrutha Iyengar as the female lead. "Since we are beginning the shoot amid the pandemic crisis, we decided to initially go ahead with a short schedule of two days, which will take place in and around Bengaluru. The full-fledged schedule will start from Oct. 8 onwards," says the director, who added that the first schedule will involve Likith Shetty along with Achyuth Kumar, Padmaja Rao and Sampath participating in the shoot, while Amrutha will be joining the sets in the first week of October.

Family Pack is produced by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, in association with Likith Shetty and Deshraj Rai. It will be a comedy entertainer, says the director, who goes on to explain that in Indian culture, whether it is love or arranged marriage, the alliance is not just between the boy and the girl, but it requires two families to come together, which is one plot of the story. The film also stars Rangayana Raghu, Dattanna, Tilak, and Nagabhushan. It has dialogues written by Masti, music composed by Gurukiran, cinematography by Uday Leela, and editing by Madhu.

The comedy entertainer, made by Puneeth Rajkumar's PRK Productions and directed by Arjun Kumar, stars Likith Shetty and Amrutha Iyengar

A still from *Family Pack*